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JPRS L/9419

28 November 1980

Worldwide Report

NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS

(FOUO 50/80)

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WORLDWIDE REPORT
NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS
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AUSTRALIA

COURT HEARS DETAILS OF HEROIN SMUGGLING OPERATION

Threat to Witness

Melbourne THE AGE in English 17 Oct 80 p 18

[Excerpts] A witness in a drug conspiracy trial said yesterday that he was told to read the newspapers to see what happened to people who gave evidence as a warning to keep his mouth shut.

The man, John Russell Nankervis, a butcher, of Malvern Road, Glen Iris, said the warning came from Tony Zampaglione, one of the men accused in the case.

He was giving evidence in the Criminal Court trial of four men and a woman charged with having conspired to import prohibited narcotics.

Antonio Zampaglione, 31, of Hardwicke Court, Frankston, has pleaded not guilty to four counts of having conspired to import prohibited goods, two counts of having possessed prohibited goods, and a charge of having conspired to obstruct the course of justice.

His brother Salvatore Zampaglione, 25, of McKean Street, Fitzroy, has pleaded not guilty to three counts of having conspired to import prohibited goods and one of having possessed prohibited goods.

David Quentin Jewell, 37, of Esdale Street, Nunawading, has pleaded not guilty to two counts of having conspired to import prohibited goods and one count of having possessed prohibited goods.

John Alan Strike, 36, no address given, has pleaded not guilty to two counts of having conspired to imported prohibited goods.

Great Bloke

Helen Margaret Barnacle, 36, of Mordialloc, has pleaded not guilty to three counts of having conspired to import prohibited goods and one count of having possessed prohibited goods.

Mr Nankervis said he had introduced Allan Combey, who acted as a drug courier, to Mr Tony Zampaglione.

Mr Combey was arrested at Tullamarine airport on 3 December, 1978, carrying heroin worth \$500,000 concealed in a corset.

Mr Nankervis said that Mr Zampaglione had told him: "We haven't got any money (we used it all buying the drugs, air fares and expenses." [as published]

"I asked what the deal was with Combey, Combey was to get \$20,000 if the drugs got in. If they didn't get in, he was to get nothing, he was on his own."

Travel Agent's Testimony

Melbourne THE AGE in English 18 Oct 80 p 10

[Excerpts] A travel agent who said he made bookings for a drug courier and three others to Malaysia in 1978 told the Criminal Court yesterday that he feared he would be murdered if he disclosed the facts.

John Christopher Watson said that after the courier, Allan Combey, was arrested at Tullamarine airport on 13 December 1978 with heroin worth \$500,000 concealed on him, he was warned by Antonio Zampaglione not to implicate him.

Mr Watson was giving evidence in the trial of Antonio Zampagliman who have pleaded not guilty to having conspired to import prohibited goods, narcotics. [as published]

Mr Watson said he had dealt with Mr Tony Zampaglione previously, and said Mr Zampaglione had asked him in November 1978 to handle the arrangements for four people to travel to South-East Asia.

Mr Watson said he issued tickets and travellers' cheques for Mr Tony Zampaglione, Mrs Barnacle, Mr Combey and a man named Scala. He then received a telephone call from Mr Tony Zampaglione, who later called at his office.

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AUSTRALIA

DEFENDANT WHO THREATENED WITNESS OUT ON BAIL

Melbourne THE AGE in English 17 Oct 80 p 20

[Text] A man who allegedly told the police he would "fix" a witness in a drug case was yesterday released on \$10,000 bail. Police told the Melbourne Magistrate Court that Yasar Celikkaya, 45, travel agent, of Yarack Court, Broadmeadows, had threatened to "fix" the man who had informed on him.

Sergeant Desmond Killmier, of the federal drug unit, said that during an interview on 8 October Mr Celikkaya ran his finger across his own throat to demonstrate the "fix."

Mr Celikkaya was before the court on three counts of having possessed heroin and one count of having possessed cannabis.

Commonwealth Prosecutor, Mr Graeme Cantwell, opposed bail. "There will be an unacceptable risk that the defendant will interfere with witnesses while on bail," he said. He said he believed Mr Celikkaya would fail to answer bail.

Mr McAllister, SM, granted bail of \$10,000 with a surety of \$10,000 and remanded Mr Celikkaya to appear on 30 October. He said Mr Celikkaya must report to the federal drug unit offices three times a week.

Mr Cantwell told the court an undercover agent from the Federal drug unit bought five grams of heroin from Mr Celikkaya for \$1250 on 1 September.

He said the agent paid Mr Celikkaya a further \$16,000 for 19.7 grams of heroin on 17 September and \$5000 for six grams of heroin on 24 September.

Mr Cantwell said in further meetings the agent and Mr Celikkaya discussed the sale of about 400 grams of heroin. He said after this discussion Mr Celikkaya was arrested and found to be carrying a small quantity of cannabis.

He said the purchases from Mr Celikkaya were recorded on tapes, video film, photographs and other devices hidden at the meeting places.

Mr Celikkaya's lawyer, Mr David Brustman, told the court his client would defend the charges. He said Mr Celikkaya had been in Australia for more than 10 years, was well-known in the community, and had 30 character witnesses in court.

AUSTRALIA

HEROIN SMUGGLER SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS IN JAIL

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 18 Oct 80 p 20

[Text] Sydney: A man described by a judge as the commander in general of a drug ring that smuggled heroin worth more than \$5-million into Australia was gaoled for 15-1/2 years yesterday.

The man's brother, who the judge said acted as second in command was sentenced to 12-1/2 years.

Joseph Bruscino (32), self-employed, and Antonio Bruscino (26), contract painter, both of Woollahra, pleaded guilty to conspiring with Sergio de Mari, Antonio Galliani, each other and others to import heroin between March 1, 1978, and February 28, 1979, in Sydney and other places.

Antonio Bruscino also pleaded guilty to possessing heroin in Sydney on or about February 9, 1979.

Couriers

Judge Redapple said that couriers working for Joseph Bruscino, the commander, and his brother had brought an estimated total of 7.2 kg of heroin into Australia over six trips.

"The estimated street value of the heroin is more than \$5 million," he said.

"The supplier was a man named Chiko, a Malaysian to be found in or around Penang."

On February 9, 1979, Joseph Bruschino's flat was raided and 1.3 kg of heroin was seized.

Judge Redapple said that Antonio Bruschino and Sergio de Mari, who were arrested at the flat, had disposed of some of the heroin while the police were breaking in by flushing it down the bathroom basin.

The evidence had satisfied him that Joseph Bruschino was commander in general of the operation. Joseph Bruschino was given a non-parole period to expire on October 6, 1984. Antonio Bruschino has a non-parole period to expire on August 8, 1983.

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AUSTRALIA

HEROIN 'BUSINESS' OPERATORS ON TRIAL IN MELBOURNE

Melbourne THE AGE in English 16 Oct 80 p 5

[Text] The operations of a heroin business in 1978-79 made James Bond pale into insignificance, the Criminal Court was told yesterday.

Mr E. D. Lloyd, QC, for the Crown, said that the drug business was almost in a state of warfare between its operators and law enforcement agencies.

He said there were spies and counter-spies, double agents, listening devices and attempts to penetrate the ranks of the drug scene.

One importation of heroin by the drug ring was worth \$500,000 on the street, Mr Lloyd said. He was opening the Crown case against four men and one woman, involving conspiracy to import prohibited narcotics.

Antonio Zampaglione, 31, of Hardwicke Court, Frankston, has pleaded not guilty to four counts of conspiracy to import prohibited goods, two counts of possession of prohibited goods and a charge of conspiracy to obstruct the course of justice.

His brother, Salvatore Zampaglione, 25, of McKean Street, Fitzroy, has pleaded not guilty to three counts of conspiracy to import prohibited goods and one count of possession.

David Quentin Jewell, 37, of Esdale Street, Nunawading, has pleaded not guilty to two counts of conspiracy to import prohibited goods and one count of possession.

John Alan Strike, 36, no address given, has pleaded not guilty to two counts of conspiracy to import prohibited goods.

Helen Margaret Barnacle, 36, of Mordialloc, has pleaded not guilty to three counts of conspiracy to import prohibited goods and one count of possession.

Threats

Mr. Lloyd said that two people who knew about the drug operations had received serious threats from Tony Zampaglione about divulging information.

He said a travel agent named Watson had organised tickets to Asia and accommodation for Tony Zampaglione, Helen Barnacle, a courier, Allan Combey, and another man named Scala. The agent was interviewed by narcotics agents after Combey was arrested at Tullamarine in December 1978, with heroin worth \$500,000 concealed in a corset, he said.

"But Tony Zampaglione had got there first," Mr Lloyd said. "He made it plain to Watson that it would not be for the good of Watson's health to disclose who it was who had made those bookings and paid this money.

"He made it plain to Watson that one of the members of the party had been caught carrying drugs, that Zampaglione didn't want to be implicated in it in any way and his involvement was to be concealed at all costs."

Another man named Nankervis, who had introduced Combey to Tony Zampaglione, was told to lie low and say nothing or he would be implicated, too, Mr. Lloyd said.

Mr Lloyd said that the threats went further, to the point where Zampaglione made it plain to Nankervis that if he said what he knew about who organised the expedition, he would suffer physical harm.

Mr Lloyd said the jury would hear a tape recording of a conversation between three of the accused and a solicitor in a motel, with a counter-intelligence agent present.

He said the Zampagliones had indicated that they had confidence in the survival of their trade because no witnesses would go to court against them.

"It was indicated the only sort of witnesses the Crown would be able to find against them would be junkies," Mr Lloyd said. He said it was said that junkies did not stay in the same town very long and might die of an overdose.

'Assisted'

"The final thing that was said was to the effect that some of them would get assisted to an overdose by Tony Zampaglione himself; that if he could catch these junkies who might be witnesses they would die of an overdose with a bit of assistance from Tony Zampaglione, with an undiluted, uncut shot of heroin injected straight into the vein," he said.

Mr Lloyd said it might be for the jury to decide whether this was said seriously or as a joke. He referred to three importations of drugs, one allegedly by Combey, one allegedly by a man named Gordon who was now dead and a third, which he called the Jewell and Strike importation, allegedly involving drugs hidden in a parcel airfreighted to Melbourne.

He said this was a trial run, organised with a supplier in Penang, to try out a system of importing drugs and see whether it worked and whether the parcel was collected by someone involved with the conspiracy or police.

"If it didn't get through, it would enable the people who organised it to make deductions as to who was a friend and who was a foe," Mr Lloyd said.

He also outlined two raids by police, one on a car parked at a Safeway store near the Nepean Highway. The Zampaglione brothers and Jewell were in the car and two plastic bags containing heroin were found under the car. A loaded pistol was in the back of the car, Mr Lloyd said.

Mr Lloyd said this raid took place as the men were doing a deal in bulk drugs. Police had also raided Tony Zampaglione's Frankston house, where there were two Alsatian dogs, and found loaded guns and a safe concealed in the base of a kitchen cupboard, he said.

Mr Lloyd described Helen Barnacle as Tony Zampaglione's de facto wife and said she had also helped Sam Zampaglione in his drug business.

The trial continues today.

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AUSTRALIA

BRIEFS

HASHISH SMUGGLING ARRESTS--Melbourne:--Hashish oil allegedly concealed in a car imported into Australia was worth about \$2 million on the street, the City Court in Melbourne was told yesterday. Det-Sgt Richard O'Donovan, of the Australian federal police drug unit, said that 26.4 kg of hashish oil was imported into Australia. After the vehicle arrived in Australia, it had been driven to a city car-park before going to a Templestowe address for dismantling. Donovan said that four men were arrested on the night of October 6. Lahoud Moubarak (41), of Eram Road, Box Hill, Peter Habchi (37), of Calderwood Crescent, Bulleen, Nabil Karam (32), of Albert Street, Preston, and Elias Habchi (28), of no fixed address, appeared before Magistrate Don Hammond. They were all charged with conspiring to import cannabis resin, being knowingly concerned in importation of cannabis resin and possessing cannabis resin. No pleas were entered. Mr Hammond remanded Elias Habchi and Karam to appear again on November 11. Bail was also refused. He allowed Peter Habchi and Moubarak bail on their own undertaking with a \$20,000 surety each. He directed that their families must remain in Victoria and that they must lodge any passports held and report daily to police. [Excerpts] [Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 15 Oct 80 p 81]

NUGAN HAND BANK INVESTIGATION--Sydney--A high-ranking Canberra customs officer had stopped an investigation into illegal dealings of the Nugan Hand Bank and other companies, a customs officer's union official said yesterday. The Australian Customs Officers' Association, New South Wales secretary, Mr Bob Spanswick, said customs officers working covertly had established a link between Nugan Hand and a company at Balmain in Sydney which was allegedly involved in illegal activities. [The Nugan Hand Bank went into provisional liquidation with liabilities of more than \$7 million in April. Frank Nugan, 37, co-founder with Michael Jon Hand, was found shot dead at Lithgow on January 27. A coroner returned a finding of suicide. Hand was last heard from on June 6. He is believed to have gone into hiding in fear of his life from angry creditors.] Mr Spanswick said he believed customs officers would have been in a far better position if they had gone ahead with a proper investigation of the companies in 1977. "Since late 1976, there was evidence collated by customs officers working undercover that Nugan Hand banking ventures were dealing in illicit businesses, including drug trafficking," he said. [Excerpts] [Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 16 Oct 80 p 9]

DRUG-CAR SWAP--A suspended Queensland detective sergeant gave a man 1.8 kg of marihuana in exchange for a stolen Gemini sedan, the Magistrate's Court was told yesterday. Kevin Wayne Ellis, currently serving a sentence in Brisbane Jail, said he had been promised 4.5 kg of marihuana for the deal. He said it was the first time he had become involved in selling marihuana. Since that time, in October, 1978, he sold between 18 kg and 22 kg of the prohibited plant. Ellis told the court he obtained marihuana in lots of 4.5 kg from police at Flemington police station in Sydney. He said he paid money from the sale of marihuana to Max Gudgeon and Lionel Burnie, police officers at Flemington. Ellis said this at the committal hearing of charges against Neville Stanley Parker, 45, suspended detective sergeant, of Fair Street, Upper Mount Gravatt, and Neil Stanley Beer, suspended constable, of Osterley Road, Yeronga. Parker this week was committed to the November 10 criminal sittings of the District Court on charges of having received a Holden Gemini sedan and a Holden Commodore sedan. He pleaded not guilty to both charges. [Excerpt] [Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 16 Oct 80 p 18]

1980 DRUG STATISTICS--Canberra: Drug seizures in Australia so far this year carried an estimated street value of more than \$15 million, the Minister for Administrative Services, Mr McLeay, said yesterday. "The combined police work of Federal and State law enforcement agencies is producing dramatic results in the constant battle against organised crime," he said. Mr McLeay said that police agencies in Australia were on the threshold of even more dramatic inroads against organised crime. Statistics revealed the effectiveness of operations conducted by the newly-formed federal police and the successful liaison between Commonwealth and State authorities within Australia and with national organisations outside the country. "The pressure on organised crime will be further stepped up with the establishment of an Australian Police Ministers' Council, the Australian Bureau of Criminal Intelligence and a judicial in- [as printed] He said that drug seizures so far this year were: Heroin 7422.50g, cocaine 6900g, cannabis oil 90,631.55g and cannabis 452,930.36g. The federal police had 130 operators in the drug area, supported by 70 intelligence officers and backed by the full resources of the 2500 members of the force. "The amalgamation of the former Commonwealth police force and the incorporation of the former narcotics bureau into the new force is working well," Mr McLeay said. [Text] [Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 11 Oct 80 p 4]

PROBATION FOR 18-YEAR-OLD--An 18-year-old girl was placed on probation for two years yesterday and ordered to do 100 hours of community work for a drug offence. Amanda Julie Nurse, unemployed cashier, of Herdsman Parade, Wembley, had pleaded guilty in the Supreme Court to selling a drug known as STP on May 9 and possession with intent to sell or supply. Mr Justice Brinsden said that Miss Nurse had admitted buying 35 trips of the drug for \$6 each and had sold 5-1/2 of them for \$8 each a trip. Police found her in possession of 29 squares of paper impregnated with the drug. A Christian minister had said she was making a real effort to change her life-style. "You must do that or I see nothing but ill for you," Mr Justice Brinsden said. [Text] [Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 11 Oct 80 p 4]

DRUG SMUGGLERS JAILED--Melbourne: A 33-year-old man was sentenced to 15 years' gaol yesterday for attempting to smuggle heroin into Australia. Judge Ogden said in the County Court in Melbourne that Gary Ronald Rowley was involved in a repulsive and dirty trade which gave addicts the drugs they craved. Rowley, a male nurse, formerly of Double Bay, Sydney, pleaded guilty to having unlawfully imported 351.8 grams of pure heroin. Judge Ogden heard that Rowley had bought the drugs in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and was arrested at Melbourne Airport on July 27 with a heroin mixture worth \$836,000 strapped to his legs. He set a minimum term of 11 years and said: "It seems that you feel remorse for your actions and you appear to have a chance of rehabilitation." [Excerpt] [Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 7 Oct 80 p 3]

DOCTORS' BAGS ROBBED--A magistrate said that he would take into account an offender's youth when sentencing him on drug-related charges yesterday. Noel Adam Goodchild (21) appeared in the East Perth Court on four charges of stealing and receiving, two of breaking and entering and one of attempted breaking and entering. All charges stemmed from thefts of doctors' bags from surgeries and cars. Mr B. Singleton, for Goodchild, told Magistrate J. Simpson that his client had a history of drug addiction but had tried several times to overcome it. On the last occasion Goodchild had tried to go "cold turkey," but in a state of depression he and another man had stolen several doctors' bags for drugs. Mr Singleton asked the magistrate to be lenient and to make any sentence concurrent with a prison term Goodchild is serving for other drug-related offences. Goodchild was sentenced to three months' gaol on each charge concurrent with his present sentence. [Text] [Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 4 Oct 80 p 30]

PHYSICIAN ADDICT--Sydney: A former West Australian doctor who began using the drug pethedine while treating his wife with it was fined \$700 in the Sydney Central Court yesterday. John Frederick Good (35) of Weetalibah Road, Northbridge, pleaded guilty to possessing pethedine, to administering it and to writing a script without authority on January 11 this year. Det.-Sen. Constable Warren Thomas Chambers told the court that Good had gone to a Cremorne pharmacy on January 11 and produced a script written and signed by himself, for his wife, for pethedine. The pharmacy staff had become suspicious and the police were advised. Good was arrested later at a motel. Chambers said that earlier that day, after Good had received 500 milligrams of pethedine from a Mosman pharmacy, he had driven to a nearby street and injected himself with the drug. Mrs Solomons said that the Health Commission had been concerned at the big number of prescriptions being filled out for pethedine and at an interview with the commission last year Good had agreed to surrender his rights to authorising prescriptions. Later he had written a letter revoking that surrender and believed that he was able to redeem the prescriptions he had already filled out. Good was registered as a medical practitioner in NSW but had been told that the registration might soon be revoked, Mrs Solomons said. Good was fined \$400 for writing a script without authority and \$150 on each of the charges of possessing and administering pethedine. [Excerpt] [Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 4 Oct 80 p 19]

HEROIN, MARIHUANA PUSHER--A youth was charged in the East Perth Court yesterday with having heroin that he intended to sell. David George Porter (18), unemployed, of Elliot Street, Scarborough, was also charged with selling heroin and with possessing cannabis resin and money from its sale. Sgt J. King, prosecuting, told the court that Porter was arrested in Scarborough on Saturday with 24 packets of heroin, each containing 200 milligrams, in his possession. Porter was remanded on \$16,000 bail with a surety of \$15,000 to appear on November 6. He was not required to plead. [Text] [Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 7 Oct 80 p 31]

MARIHUANA IMPORTERS--Four men appeared in Melbourne Magistrates' Court yesterday charged with conspiring to import cannabis oil worth \$2 million. Three of the men, Peter Habchi, 37, unemployed, of Bulleen, Elias Habchi, 29, unemployed, of no fixed address, and Lahoud Moubarak, 41, unemployed, of Box Hill, were also charged with possession of cannabis and being knowingly concerned in the importation of the drug. Nabil Karam, 32, barman, of Preston, was also charged with importing the cannabis oil. Detective Sergeant Brian Ridley, of the Federal police drug unit, told the court that a Mercedes was imported into Melbourne from Cyprus via Israel on 15 August. On 19 August the car was examined by Customs Bureau officers and more than 24 kilos of cannabis oil found. [Excerpt] [Melbourne THE AGE in English 8 Oct 80 p 19]

'PROFESSIONAL CONSPIRACY' ALLEGED--Two brothers who allegedly imported more than seven kilograms of heroin into Australia in less than a year were involved in a "sophisticated professional conspiracy," the Crown prosecutor, Mr McFinlay, QC, told the District Criminal Court yesterday. Before the court were Antonio Bruscino, 26, contract painter, and Giuseppe Bruscino, 32, self-employed, both of Rosemont Avenue, Woolahra. They pleaded guilty to conspiring with Sergio De Mari, Antonio Galliani, each other and others to import heroin between March 1, 1978, and February 28, 1979, in Sydney and other places. Antonio Bruscini also pleaded guilty to possessing heroin in Sydney on February 9, 1979. An investigator with the Bureau of Customs, Mr A. McLean, told the court that the street value of the imported heroin was estimated at more than \$5 million. He said heroin brought into Australia by couriers on six occasions totalled 7.2 kilograms. Giuseppe Bruscino has been in custody for more than 18 months and his brother for 20 months. Judge Redapple said there was a massive amount of evidence. He remanded the brothers for sentence next Friday. [Text] [Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 11 Oct 80 p 11]

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BURMA

BRIEFS

HEROIN SEIZURES IN TAUNGGYI--Taunggyi, 1 Nov--A packet of heroin worth about K 8,000 was seized from one Daw Lin Lay Myint of Thirimingala Street, Thittaw Ward here yesterday. Acting on information, a police party headed by Police Inspector U Ye Myint stopped Daw Lin Lay Myint at the corner of Zawtika and Nyaungbin Streets here yesterday, searched and found a packet of heroin hidden in her basket. The police party then proceeded to Daw Lin Lay Myint's house and seized a penicillin vial containing heroin hidden under the pillow of Ai Yon Sein, of Ward 3, Panglong, son-in-law of Daw Lin Lay Myint. A heroin packet weighing one kilogram with a street value of K 90,000 was also found in a wardrobe. Police also rounded up Than Tun alias Maung Pu and Ai Aung in connection with the seizure. The authorities are taking action against Daw Lin Lay Myint and three others under Section 6(b) (possession), 7(b) (transportation), 10(b) (sale) and 14 (d) (failure to register for treatment) of the Narcotic Drugs Law. [Text] [Rangoon THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 6 Nov 80 p 5]

DRUG SEIZURE IN RANGOON--Rangoon, 30 Oct--Police Station Officer U Kan Nyunt and party from the Crime Prevention Squad of the Rangoon Division People's Police Force seized a packet of heroin valued at K 25 from Kyin Win (25) and Toe Toe in Lewis Street on 29 October night. The police also seized a packet of heroin valued at K 100 from Maung Maw of No 149, (third floor) Lewis Street. Kyauktada police are taking action against the three under Section 6(b) (possession), 10(b) (sale), 11 (abetment) and 14(d) (failure to register for treatment) of the Narcotic Drug Law. Earlier that morning, a 25-tical packet of opium with a street value of about K 500 was seized from U Tun Yin (52) of Kwahni village, Kyauktan Township, at the bus stop of the No 12 Bus Line in front of Nyaungdon Monastery, Bogyoke Aung San Street. Botataung police are taking action against U Tun Yin under Sections 6(b) and 14(d) of the Narcotic Drug Law.(300) [Text] [Rangoon THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 3 Nov 80 p 8]

CSO: 5300

HONG KONG

U.S. METHADONE EXPERT NAMED ANTINARCOTICS CONSULTANT

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 28 Oct 80 p 11

/Text/

A medical specialist on narcotics treatment has been appointed consultant to the Director of Medical and Health Services.

The consultant, Dr Robert Newman, an authority on methadone treatment, is currently the general director of the Beth-Israel Medical Centre in New York.

He has been connected with Hongkong's anti-narcotics efforts and the methadone treatment programmes since 1975.

His appointment, by the Government, comes in the wake of a steady rise since 1975 in the number of drug addicts seeking treatment.

According to statistics, the daily average of addicts in the various treatment and rehabilitation programmes as at the end of June was 14,000 compared with 6,000 seven years ago — a 150 per cent

increase.

A spokesman for the Narcotics Division said yesterday the reason for the appointment of a consultant was to supplement the advice available locally.

He stressed the necessity and importance of Hongkong being kept constantly informed of new ideas and developments which are taking place in other parts of the world, especially in the developed countries which have considerable research capabilities in all relevant fields.

An important part of Dr Newman's responsibilities will be the collation of, and advice on the possible local application of such research.

His role is to help Hongkong benefit from the latest international thinking and developments in the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts.

Dr Newman visited Hong-

kong on a number of occasions between 1975 and 1978.

He has contributed significantly towards the development of the methadone treatment scheme, and also to the proposals leading to the creation of the new Central Registry of Drug Addicts, believed to be one of most advanced systems of its kind in the world.

As a consultant, Dr Newman will visit Hongkong every year, during which he will be briefed on current progress, hold talks with members of the Action Committee Against Narcotics and those responsible for Hongkong's various anti-narcotics programmes.

He will also visit treatment and rehabilitation centres, and discuss the most recent reports issued by the CRDA, as well as their implications in terms of possible future policy.

Dr Newman, who is now here, will meet leading personalities in the fight against drug trafficking and abuse.

He will address doctors attending the second World Health Organisation international-regional training course on the treatment and rehabilitation of drug dependent people.

The course will begin today and end on November 17.

Dr Newman will also address medical students at the Hongkong University.

CSO: 5320

HONG KONG

OFFICIALS ASSERT PROGRESS BEING MADE IN WAR ON DRUGS

Major Social Problem

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 20 Oct 80 p 16

/Text/

Drug abuse is still one of Hongkong's major social problems, the Secretary for the New Territories, Mr David Akers-Jones, said yesterday.

Speaking at the opening of the Yuen Long district anti-narcotics campaign, Mr Akers-Jones said that as long as this remained so Yuen Long's citizens — and especially its youth — would be at risk.

And while the illegal drug trade remains so enormously profitable it will continue to attract the criminals who exploit it.

Mr Akers-Jones said that,

with as many as 40,000 addicts in Hongkong, there will remain "a reservoir of possible infection to our young people."

However, as a result of years of dedicated effort Hongkong can now say that it is containing its drug problem and making considerable inroads into the number of young people involved in drug-taking.

"But our pride and satisfaction in these achievements must not be allowed to make us complacent," he said.

"There will be a continuing need not merely to maintain our efforts against drug-trafficking and abuse but to

enhance them in all fields — law enforcement treatment and rehabilitation, preventive education, community support and international action."

Meanwhile, two workshops for teachers on drug abuse will be held next month and in December.

The aim is to acquaint the teachers with the seriousness of the drug problem in Hongkong, to explore effective ways of educating pupils on drug abuse and to provide an opportunity for teachers to exchange views.

The event is jointly organised by the social subjects section of the Education De-

partment's advisory inspectorate and the Hongkong Association of Pharmaceutical Industry.

Activities will include talks, slide shows, discussions and a tour of the Narcotics Bureau museum.

The workshops will be conducted in English in the theatre of the police headquarters in Arsenal Street.

They will be held on November 14 and December 5 from 2.30-5 pm.

Applications should be made through heads of schools to the senior inspector (social studies and health education) by November 7.

Addicts Number 40,000

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 29 Oct 80 p 18

/Text/

Hongkong is making headway in the battle against drug trafficking and abuse, the Deputy Director of Medical and Health Services, Dr S. F. Lam, said yesterday.

"We do believe that we are more than holding our own," he said at the opening of the World Health Organisation inter-regional training course for doctors.

Nevertheless Hongkong is still facing an enormous social problem, which calls upon all the resources of ingenuity and expertise at our

disposal, he said.

It is estimated that about 40,000 people habitually take heroin — most of them lower-paid male workers.

This assessment was based on the computerised central registry for drug abusers set up several years ago to monitor changing trends and is the first reliable indication of the extent of the problem.

"Apart from the medical considerations which primarily concern us as doctors, the social, legal, and economic implications are staggering.

and demand from us counter-measures that are decisive, energetic, and effective, and in the interests, not only of the addict, but of the community to which it belongs," he said.

The training course, the second of its kind organised by the WHO in conjunction with the Government, will be held until November 17.

About 26 doctors from Burma, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand and the Philippines are taking

part in the course which aims to provide participants with an in-depth study into the latest theory and practice in drug addiction treatment and rehabilitation.

There will be lectures by local and international experts in the field as well as group discussions, visits and attachments to various Government departments and institutions.

Dr Lam was addressing the opening on behalf of chairman of the Action Committee Against Narcotics, Sir Albert Rodrigues, who could not attend because of illness.

Courier Arrests Increase

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 3 Nov 80 p 21

[Article by Tommy Lewis in the column "Monday Focus"]

[Excerpts]

Concealing drugs inside the human body is a highly dangerous practice, a top customs officer said yesterday.

Couriers lured into smuggling heroin into Hongkong by drug operators should have second thoughts before taking up any offers, he said.

Senior Superintendent K. S. Tong, who heads customs operations and investigations, said drugs are usually hidden in condoms and placed inside rectums and vaginas.

He said couriers have to successfully evade drug enforcement agents before boarding a plane and they have to be "screened" on their return to Hongkong.

While here they have to pass officers of the joint customs and police special unit stationed at Kai Tak airport.

"If they manage to pass all these screenings, they would be able to make some money from the drug operators but still have to undergo big risks before they can make their courier-fees," he said.

"One cannot carry large amounts of drugs in the

human body so the rewards of couriers will not actually be substantial."

He said that in the first nine months this year, officers of the Joint Investigation Unit stationed at the airport have arrested four men and two women for concealing drugs in their bodies.

One of the women arrested was found to have concealed three condoms packed with No 3 heroin in her vagina.

A fourth condom, concealed in her rectum, had to be taken out at Queen Elizabeth Hospital when she failed to get it out herself.

Meanwhile, Sen Supt Tong disclosed that the number of arrests of drug couriers at Kai Tak this year has increased 300 per cent over last year.

During the whole of last year, 19 drug couriers were arrested on their return from overseas trips while 65 people have been arrested so far this year.

This could mean that more couriers have been recruited to smuggle drugs into Hongkong or that the joint

police-customs unit which came into operation in July last year is proving its effectiveness.

Asked about the drugs situation in Hongkong at present, Sen Supt Tong said there seems to be still a constant flow of drugs into the Colony and this has caused drug prices to plunge.

The present retail price for a kilogram of No 3 heroin is \$450,000 compared with the all-time high price of \$600,000 PER KG IN June last year.

The drug pedlars are selling heroin with a purity of 20 per cent at present which is higher than the purity of heroin sold in the street level in the middle of last year.

The drop in drug prices could be attributed to a better harvest made in the Golden Triangle and the fact that couriers have been smuggling drugs into Hongkong through non-suspect countries, such as Taiwan and the Philippines.

"We are aware of this and we have made seven arrests of couriers arriving from non-suspect ports — five from the Philippines and two from Taiwan so far this year," Sen Supt Tong said.

Small-Time Operators

Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 13 Oct 80 p 17

[Text]

The police battle against drug smuggling is a war against small-time operators with big ideas.

The pattern of smuggling since the last of the major drug-importing syndicates was broken in 1978 involves small, loose groups taking in small quantities of heroin base mainly through the airport.

"There is no doubt that some of these groups have strong financial backing and are eager to hit the big time," Superintendent Peter Man Shing-hon of the Police Narcotics Bureau said.

"Fortunately, we are getting many of them before they have a chance to expand."

In the first eight months of the year, police have arrested and prosecuted 1,144 people for manufacturing or trafficking in dangerous drugs.

Last year, there were 1,855 such prosecutions.

"Of more significance is the fact that during this period, the Narcotics Bureau has made 42 'high level' arrests, compared to 19 such arrests for the whole of last year," Mr Man said.

High level arrest is the arrest of key men such as the syndicate boss, chemist, distributor, importer, courier or storekeeper.

Faced with heavy pressure from the authorities, drug-

running groups are becoming more and more careful with their choice of couriers.

"A trend that has emerged recently is for the syndicates to recruit, often through a middleman, freelancers to take in small quantities of high quality heroin base," Mr Man said.

These people are approached in bars, ballrooms, discotheques, or mahjong schools and offered an all expenses paid holiday abroad on condition that they bring in one or two kilograms of heroin on their return.

"The syndicates make sure these people have no criminal records and they are rarely used for more than two trips to avoid arousing suspicion," he said.

But still many of them were arrested by the joint intelligence unit, a drug fighting team made up of police and customs officers based at the airport.

Officers of the JIU, established about a ago, do not confine their checks to suspicious-looking incoming passengers.

They also study outgoing passengers to pick out suspicious characters.

This tactic has resulted in the arrest of many "freelancing" couriers.

Some freelancers are required in Hongkong to smuggle drugs from one foreign country to another, where they usually face even tougher penalties if caught.

"Some countries still impose a death penalty on drug traffickers while in other countries, it is not uncommon for them to be sentenced to 25 years' imprisonment," he said.

"So far this year, at least 40 Hongkong people have been arrested for dangerous drugs offences in countries such as Thailand, Holland and France," he added.

Traffickers usually try to sneak in drugs by hiding it in false compartments of suitcases or briefcases, sandals and shoes with empty platforms, or by tying it round their bodies.

In addition, more people are turning to the old smuggling method of internal body concealment, hiding small quantities of drugs inside their body.

So far this year, six people have been arrested for trying to smuggle drugs in this way.

Turning to the method of drug-taking, Mr Man said one worrying trend is that more and more addicts are turning away from the traditional method of smoking heroin to injecting or "mainlining."

"The current street price for a 'fix' — a small packet containing about 0.13 gram of No 3 heroin, at about 26 per cent purity — is about \$50," he said.

CSO: 5320

HONG KONG

BRIEFS

OVERDOSE DEATH--A transport worker who smuggled morphine in his anus died of an overdose of drugs after a plastic package broke inside his body, it was stated at an inquest yesterday. Two packages of drugs--34.2 grams of a mixture containing 28.2 grams of salts of esters of morphine--had to be taken out by surgical forceps in a hospital. Li Wai-chung (49) was admitted in a coma to United Christian Hospital on May 26, and died later that day. The court was told that Li returned on May 24 from a 20-day trip to Thailand. [Excerpts] [Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 8 Oct 80 p 12]

THAI SMUGGLER JAILED--A Thai who helped smuggle \$600,000 worth of dangerous drugs into Hongkong to cancel a \$25,000 debt he owed a business friend was sentenced to eight years' imprisonment by a High Court judge yesterday. Somsak Sae-lien (30) pleaded guilty before Mr Commissioner Mayo to possessing 1,345.46 grams of a mixture containing 295.75 grams of salts of esters of morphine for unlawful trafficking. Somsak was arrested on May 8 when he arrived from Bangkok via Taipei. When he went through the customs at the airport, customs officers noticed his suitcase had a thick bottom layer. On examination, it was found that a plywood board had been fixed with tape and glue at the bottom layer of the suitcase and beneath it were two plastic bags of drugs. [Excerpt] [Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 8 Oct 80 p 12]

HEROIN POSSESSION SENTENCE--A 23-year-old waiter, Chow Fai, was sent to prison for five years by Judge Jones in Victoria District Court yesterday for possessing heroin with a street value of between \$80,000 and \$100,000. Chow was apprehended on August 31 as he was about to board the ferry to Macau. He was carrying a man's handbag which was later found to contain 259 grams of a mixture containing 80.5 grams of heroin. [Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 8 Oct 80 p 12]

DRUG TRAFFICKING CHARGE--A 30-year-old man, Tsim Chung-man, was yesterday charged with possessing \$3 million worth of dangerous drugs for unlawful trafficking. No plea was taken and Tsim was remanded in jail custody until Thursday by Mr E. S. Yanne at San Po Kong Court. Tsim is alleged to have had 7,000 grams of salts of esters of morphine in Homantin on October 3. [Text] [Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 11 Oct 80 p 8]

HEROIN COURIER SENTENCED--A Hongkong man who arrived at Kai Tak airport from Bangkok on June 12 with 1½ lbs of heroin in the hollowed out soles of his sandals

was yesterday sentenced to seven years' imprisonment. Wong Chi-wei (31) pleaded guilty to possessing dangerous drugs for unlawful trafficking. Wong freely admitted that he went to Bangkok with the express purpose of bringing back heroin. He was given \$4,000 in Bangkok for making the trip and was told he would receive a further \$4,000 when he made the delivery in Hongkong. /Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 29 Oct 80 p 17/

NARCOTICS RAID--Narcotics Bureau officers yesterday detained six men and three women in 15 raids and seized No 3 heroin worth about \$500,000. The raids followed several months of investigations. Six of those arrested have been charged with possession of dangerous drugs for the purpose of unlawful trafficking. The others were released after questioning. /Text/ /Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 1 Nov 80 p 14/

THAI NATIONAL CHARGED--The trial began in the High Court yesterday of a young Thai national charged with possessing 4½ kilos of heroin for unlawful trafficking. Jang Are-fong (19) pleaded not guilty before Mr Justice O'Connor and a jury of four men and three women was empanelled to try the case. /Excerpt/ /Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 4 Nov 80 p 14/

CS0: 5320

MALAYSIA

NARCOTICS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS STRICTER PENALTIES

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 8 Oct 80 p 7

[Text]

THE Executive Unit of the Cabinet Committee on Dadah has proposed that Government adopt several sterner measures, including the confiscation of wealth acquired through trafficking, to curb the drug menace.

Another proposal urged the Government to reduce from 100 grams to 25 grams the amount of dadah involved in trafficking for which the life sentence could be imposed.

The proposals were made at the day-long meeting of the unit, chaired by Home Affairs Minister, Tan Sri Ghazali Shafie, yesterday.

The 12th meeting of the unit at Dusun Datuk Murad, in Ayer Kroh, was attended by representatives from the police, Customs, University Sains Malaysia, Pemadam and the Education, Health and Welfare Services Ministries.

Tan Sri Ghazali later told reporters at the Henry Gurney School in Teluk Mas that the unit also wanted the Government to make it compulsory for dadah dependants to report to the authorities.

The unit also recommended that Government empower the relevant

authorities to tap telephone conversations of dadah traffickers.

Life sentence

It also wanted the Government to ensure that the life sentence imposed on dadah traffickers would really be for the offenders' entire lives, instead of them serving only 15 to 20 years in prison.

Tan Sri Ghazali said the proposals would be submitted to the Government for consideration and he hoped they would be tabled in Parliament soon.

Such measures, he said, were needed to overcome the dadah menace in the country.

He said it was unfortunate that some dadah dependants went back to their old ways two or three months after they had been rehabilitated.

The Minister said the unit was working on five areas to tackle the dadah problem — from the source, through education, rehabilitation, prevention and research.

It was also co-operating with international bodies like the United Nations, to overcome the problem.

CSO: 5300

MALAYSIA

CUSTOMS TO INTENSIFY CHECKS ON AIR PASSENGERS, LUGGAGE

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 6 Oct 80 p 1

[Text]

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun.
— About 100 Customs officers will be deployed in all airports in the country from next year to combat smuggling, especially dadah trafficking.
Customs Director-General Datuk Abdul Rahim Tak said today the officers would check all passengers' luggage, including foreigners who use the country as a base

for smuggling out dadah.

Similar intensive checks would also be carried out on all incoming passengers, he said in a working paper at a seminar on dadah preventive measures in the 80's here.

He pointed out that the department was recruiting 350 senior officers, 500 grade 1 officers and other personnel to strengthen the preven-

tive division.

The department would also use computers and buy more sophisticated equipment to add muscle to the force.

On the dog unit, which was playing an important role in the fight against dadah, Datuk Rahim said his department planned to have at least 50 dogs by early next year.

CSO: 5300

MALAYSIA

NARCOTICS ARRESTS, TRIALS, SENTENCES REPORTED

Kuala Lumpur Raids

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 1 Oct 80 p 14

[Text]

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — Police are cracking down on dadah addicts in the city, Petaling Jaya and Klang and have detained about 460 people in a major operation over the past 24 hours.

They also seized a substantial amount of ganja, heroin, opium and some utensils used for smoking dadah.

The operation, the biggest to date, was aimed at helping the addicts by detaining them and sending them to rehabilitation centres.

The operation was aimed at reducing petty crimes believed to have been mostly committed by dadah addicts.

Medical tests

In the city alone, 350 suspects including a woman and some pushers were detained.

The crackdown in the city involved 42 teams led by 14 officers. They swung into action at 10 am yesterday and

ended about the same time today.

The teams searched various places frequented by addicts, market squares, suspected opium and dadah haunts and known gangster hideouts before roping in the suspects.

The suspects were taken to the Jalan Bandar police station here from where they were later sent to the General Hospital for tests.

In Petaling Jaya, some 50 suspects were rounded up while Klang police hauled in 60 others.

Simultaneous raids were also carried out in other districts in Selangor. The details of the operation were not known.

A police source said today: "Of the first batch of 41 suspects sent for tests at the General Hospital here only three were cleared."

"The objective of the raids is to pick up suspected dadah addicts loitering in the city."

"They are then taken to the General Hospital for a urine test before determining if they are 'hooked' on any dadah."

"If the tests confirm that the suspects are addicts they will be referred to the Welfare Department which will then apply for a court order to send them to the rehabilitation centres for treatment."

Heroin Arrest

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 3 Oct 80 p 7

[Text]

IPOH, Thura. — Mine worker Lim Tai Keat, 22, was today bound over for \$1,500 after he pleaded guilty in the magistrate's court here to having 0.22gm of heroin at a house in Pasir Pinji on Feb. 14 last year.

Heroin Fine

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 10 Oct 80 p 9

[Text]

PETALING JAYA, Thura. — Housewife Risana binte Hudri, 25, was fined \$2,000 or nine months' jail by the magistrate's court here today when she pleaded guilty to having ten straw tubes containing 0.12 gm of heroin at her home in Kampong Medan at 1 a.m. on Sept. 20.

Heroin Possession

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 11 Oct 80 p 13

[Text]

PETALING JAYA, Fri. — A student, Tengku Imlan Petra bin Tengku Indera Petra, 21, was bound over in the sum of \$1,000 for three years by the magistrate's court here today after he pleaded guilty to having one straw tube of heroin.

He admitted committing the offence at Jalan 16, Sungai Way at 1.30 p.m. on Sept. 11.

Chief Inspector Asnam Shah bin Datuk Mohamed Sudin, prosecuting, told the court that PC Ali Kamarulsaman Othman, acting on a tip-off, arrested Tengku Imlan and found in his possession a tube con-

taining a light brown substance.

He said the substance was sent to the chemist for analysis, which showed that the substance weighing 0.02 gm contained heroin but it was insufficient for quantitative detection.

In mitigation, Tengku Imlan asked for leniency. He said he will be sitting for his A level examination later this year.

Magistrate Wan Adnan bin Wan Mohamed advised him not to commit any more offences. He also told him to take the opportunity to better himself.

Life Sentence

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 13 Oct 80 p 9

[Text]

KANGAR, Sun. — A 65-year-old woman, Goh Kim Suan, was sentenced to life imprisonment by the Sessions Court here today for trafficking opium.

Goh, a soyabean curd maker from Jelutong, Penang, was found guilty of trafficking 2,341 gm of prepared opium at the Padang Besar railway station customs office on May 31, last year.

She was arrested when customs officers found the dadah in her handbag and a plastic bag.

Court President T.S. Marbeck said he recognized the fact that Goh was an elderly woman and should be given a lesser penalty.

But, as dadah trafficking was a serious offence, he had no alternative but to impose the mandatory sentence. Otherwise, dadah traffickers would

employ more elderly people to convey the dadah, he said.

He said Goh was lucky, as being a woman, she could not be ordered to be whipped.

In her defence, Goh, who was represented by Mr K. Govindaraju, said a Thai woman had asked her to help carry her luggage across the border and she did not know the contents. — Bernama

Singapore Marihuana Seizure

Kuala Lumpur NEW SUNDAY TIMES in English 5 Oct 80 p 1

[Text]

SINGAPORE, Sat. — Customs officers here have seized about two metric tons of marijuana apparently destined for the United States through Mexico, sources close to the investigation said today. The dadah haul, made last night with the help of two narcotics detecting dogs, is the biggest seizure by weight ever

made in Singapore.

The marijuana, worth about US\$400,000 (\$1.3 million) wholesale in Asia, would have been worth more than 100 times as much on the streets in the United States.

Customs Senior Superintendent Liao Long Sing said the marijuana had been unloaded from the ship

Pegasus Pride for transshipment.

It was in a container labelled "bronze ware" put on board the ship in Bangkok.

Other officials said the shipment was taken off the ship for inspection after information was relayed from Mexico that a similar shipment had contained marijuana. — UPI.

Morphine Theft

Kuala Belait BORNEO BULLETIN in English 13 Oct 80 p 11

[Text]

MIRI — A 21-year-old drug addict broke into a doctor's clinic stealing morphine and other medicines.

Magistrate Mr Eric Khoo Chuan Syn called for a probation report on Jong Fui Leong and adjourned sentencing him until October 22.

Jong, a mechanic of Kampung Lopeng, Miri, broke into Dr Lee's Clinic, River Road, on the night of September 7.

Dr Victor Lee discovered the burglary when he arrived for work the next morning.

Apart from liquid morphine being missing, Roche pills and capsules were gone. Total value of the medicine was \$200.

Police arrested Jong on September 10. He was found in possession of several bottles containing pills and capsules.

In a cautioned statement he admitted the burglary and also told police he is an addict. Pending sentencing, he has been released on \$2,000 bail, with two sureties.

CSO: 5300

NEPAL

BRIEFS

INDIAN ARRESTED--An Indian national, Surender Singh, was arrested at Tribhuvan International airport while trying to smuggle four kilogrammes of opium on the Kathmandu-Bangkok flight of the Royal Nepal Airlines the other day. Jit Singh, a co-traveller, on the same flight, was also arrested for necessary action allegedly for being Surender Singh's accomplice.--RSS [Text] [Kathmandu THE MOTHERLAND in English 29 Oct 80 p 1]

CSO: 5300

NEW ZEALAND

POLICE CONDUCT DRUG SEMINARS FOR PACIFIC ISLANDS

Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 15 Oct 80 p 9

[Text]

The chances of drug couriers being caught in the Pacific Islands have increased because of a visit to the islands this month by New Zealand police.

The co-ordinator of the National Drug Intelligence Bureau (Detective Inspector Paul Fitzharris) and Detective Sergeant Peter Marshall of the Auckland drug squad returned at the weekend from two weeks of conducting seminars for police and customs officials in Tonga, Western Samoa and Fiji.

"There were two reasons for going," Mr Fitzharris said.

"We were there to assist these countries to detect early signs of a domestic drug problem, and we were there to help them help us by being aware of drugs coming in via commercial airlines,

shipping and private yachts."

Mr Fitzharris said a significant proportion of drugs imported into New Zealand came via the Pacific Islands.

"We gave them an idea of what the drugs look like and the sorts of things they should look for in luggage."

The two policemen conducted two-day seminars in Tonga, Apia, Suva and Lautoka.

They spoke to more than 200 police officers in all.

"I believe the chances of drug couriers being caught in these places are now greater, but we were only there for a couple of weeks and there is a limit to how effective we could be.

"The main thing is they are now fully aware of the problem," Mr Fitzharris said.

CS0: 5320

NEW ZEALAND

BRIEFS

VEHICLE CONFISCATION--Vehicles used to carry out drug offences may be confiscated even if the drug offender was neither driving nor in charge of the vehicle. An amendment to a clause of the Misuse of Drugs Amendment Bill before Parliament made this point clear, the chairman of Parliament's Statutes Revision Select Committee, Kapiti MP Mr Barry Brill told the "Post". Another amendment to the Bill ensured that forfeiture of vehicles, aircraft or boats used in the commission of drug offences should be the norm rather than the exception, the Government MP said. Main changes made by the Bill to the present law were the provision for the forfeiture of vehicles, removal of the four-year limit for the bringing of proceedings in drugs cases, and a change in the procedures to be followed before an analyst's certificate may be received in evidence. [Excerpts] [Wellington THE EVENING POST in English 16 Oct 80 p 8]

EXTRADITION ORDER--A Bow St magistrate has ordered the extradition of a Briton to face a charge in New Zealand of importing cannabis. Detective Sergeant D. A. Horsburgh, of the Auckland drug squad, will fly to Britain early next month to escort the man back to New Zealand. British police arrested the 34-year-old man. He appeared in the Bow St Magistrate's Court on a charge relating to the alleged importation of cannabis to New Zealand in 1977. Detective Chief Inspector R. N. MacDonald said yesterday that the arrest in Britain had followed the recent appearance of another man in the Auckland District Court. The man, whose name was suppressed, was charged with importing narcotics to New Zealand. He was remanded to the High Court for trial. [Excerpt] [Auckland THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 16 Oct 80 p 4]

CS0: 5320

PAKISTAN

BRIEFS

CHARAS SEIZED--Kusur, Oct 30--Kusur City Police arrested two persons Sardar and Shafi and recovered more than 40 kg of charas from their possession. They have been challenged under the Hudood Ordinance. They are alleged to have been in the business for the past many months, but nobody could lay hand on them because they are known for their high connections. When the police party raided the den, the accused tried to escape, but could not break the police cardon. After his own arrest, Sardar led the Police party to Shafi's house where the latter too was held along with another sizeable haul of charas. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 31 Oct 80 p 6]

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

OPIUM CULTIVATION FOUND IN 267 VILLAGES

Bangkok NATION REVIEW in English 11 Aug 80 p 3

[Text] The cultivation of opium poppies was found in 267 villages in the four northern provinces of Chiang Rai, Chiang Mai, Mae Hong Son and Payao in 1979-1980, according to a report of the Office of Narcotics Control Board (ONCB).

The ONCB's Addicting Plant Control Division reported that the poppy plantations in the 267 villages could produce about 14,084.48 kgs of opium during the planting season of October 1979-February 1980, or an average of 0.53 kg per rai.

The division launched a survey on the cultivation of poppies in villages on both sides of five major rivers in the North--Mae Ping, Mae Chaem, Mae Taeng, Mae Kok and Mae Ngad.

Nan basin was another area filled with poppies but a survey could not be made there as it was a Communist-infested zone, it said.

The survey found that poppies were cultivated in 267 villages.

They included 300 rai in the northern part of Lampang, 11,485 rai in Chiang Mai, 7,856 rai in Chiang Rai, 6,659 rai in Mae Hong Son and 441 rai in Payao.

The division said the average production output of opium was lowered, indicating that each rai of land which used to produce 1.3 kgs of opium now gave only 0.53 kg.

"This was mainly because of drought which had hit the North for three consecutive years," it said.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

BANGKOK GANG ARRESTED WITH HEROIN

Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 1 Oct 80 p 5

[Text] CRIME Suppression police yesterday arrested nine people in front of Rajvithi Hospital for alleged possession of 1,100 grammes of first grade (No 4) heroin.

Police identified them as Pramual Iniang, Samnuan Boonchuen, Mrs Pranee Chumkitj, Akom Chuenchom, Lam Vej-prasert, Sanit Mangkhalang, Thonglueng Kumsuwan, Srinual Nasikhen and Sen Boohmalert.

The police team, led by Pol Lt Col Prakas Sathamam and Pol Maj Cherdchai Chomdhavat, set up surveillance in front of the hospital just early yesterday afternoon after receiving information that a shipment of drugs would be delivered there.

They noticed a number of people gradually gathering in the hospital parking lot around 2 p.m.

At 2 p.m., police said Lam arrived carrying a paper bag, which he handed to Mrs Pranee, who was accompanied by Akom. The other people were watching nearby.

After the bag changed hands, the waiting police team emerged and managed to arrest the nine people in the hospital grounds. Police said the paper bag contained 1.1 kilos of heroin.

Lam later claimed he was a Siam Tour bus driver and initially admitted smuggling the heroin from Chiang Mai, police said.

The nine people were detained at Crime Suppression Division for further questioning on charges of possessing heroin with intent to sell.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

THIRTY TONS OF MARIHUANA SEIZED IN ANDAMAN SEA

Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 15 Oct 80 p 28

[Text]

BANGKOK, Tues. — About 30 tons of marijuana seized by Thai authorities from trawlers in the Andaman Sea last week were about to be taken to Malaysia, Bangkok police said today.

A police spokesman said they believed the marijuana, with a street value of about US\$5 million (about M\$10.5 million) in the west, was about to be loaded on to a vessel headed for Malaysian waters although the final destination was not known.

Thai authorities are carrying out a wide search for two men, believed to be Australians, who are suspected to be the masterminds of the operation.

The marijuana, packed in hundreds of air-tight containers, was

recovered from two Thai trawler boats by Customs officers on Friday.

The crew of the first trawler escaped when their trawler ran aground on a reef after being chased by a Customs patrol boat near the island of Tha Sai but the 12-man crew of the second boat were later detained by Customs officers who stopped the boat as it was approaching the island. — Bernama.

CSO: 5300

THAILAND

BRIEFS

MARIHUANA SEIZED IN PHUKET--According to a correspondent of the Region 3 Public Relations Center in Phuket, yesterday customs officials in three customs ships chased two fishing boats taking a suspicious route near Ta Sai Island off the coast of Phangnga Province. One of the fishing boats tried to flee, but crashed into the island and sank. The other boat was captured along with its 12 crewmembers. A search of the boat uncovered 30 tons of cooked marihuana in 850 plastic cans. The confiscated marihuana is valued at approximately 150 million baht. The 12 crewmen and the confiscated marihuana have been delivered to the Region 9 Customs Office. The 10 crewmen, including 2 foreigners, of the sunken boat escaped arrest. The head of the task force customs unit said the confiscated marihuana had been smuggled from Burma through Ranong Province for delivery to foreign ships in the sea off Phuket Province. Officials concerned are searching for the missing crewmen who are hiding on Ta Sai Island. [Text] [Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1300 GMT 11 Oct 80]

CSO: 5300

CANADA

DRUG ARRESTS IN VICTORIA LEAD TO WORLDWIDE RING

Routine Drug Bust Mushrooms

Vancouver THE VANCOUVER SUN in English 14 Oct 80 p B2

[Text]

What began as a routine drug bust in Victoria has mushroomed into what international law enforcement officers say could be a knockout blow against a major soft-drug smuggling ring operating in at least 12 countries.

Austrian drug enforcement officers told a news conference Monday in Vienna that they had arrested a Canadian, Peter John Newall, 50, on charges of involvement in the international ring headquartered in the Austrian province of Salzburg.

Newall's home town was not immediately known.

His arrest caps an RCMP probe that began last March with a routine police check in Victoria. RCMP Supt. Scotty Gardiner announced last week the arrests of 11 Victoria persons in connection with a multi-million-dollar hashish ring.

But the arrests were only part of a worldwide swoop, law enforcement officers said.

Gardiner said hashish, hashish oil and home marijuana were seized in Victoria and in the overseas arrests. The drugs are worth millions of dollars, he said, declining to state the exact amount of drugs seized.

The arrests resulted from a routine investigation of a Victoria area drug dealer and then spread to involve West German and Austrian police and Interpol, the international police agency.

The first arrests came in North Dakota Sept. 21, when six persons were picked up and drugs with a street value of \$3 million were seized. The haul included 64 litres of hashish oil and 52 kilograms of hashish.

The European arrests began last Wednesday, Gardiner said in a Canadian Press report.

Five of the persons arrested in Victoria appeared in provincial court Thursday.

Charged with conspiracy to import hashish into Canada between March 28 and Oct.

3 were Bruce Keith Erven, 27, of Sidney; Dennis William Elmer, 28, and Karen Gay Ebner, 23, both of Victoria. Charged with possession of hashish for the purpose of trafficking and with possession of marijuana were Victoria residents Carl and Jeanette Hinke. Names of the other persons charged have not yet been released.

Robert Danzinger, director-general of public security in Austria, told a press conference in his country Monday that the sweep is "the biggest blow against drug traffic in the last year," it was reported by the Associated Press.

He said Newall's arrest in a fake traffic check Oct. 8 in Salzburg led British police to round up seven suspects in London, including Newall's wife, Frances, 49, and his son, Peter Cameron, 27. Arrested the next day was Carol Updike, described as the son's American common-law wife.

That was the same day that the Victoria suspects were arrested. The Austrians said that Newall soon may be extradited to Canada.

The Austrian police said their investigation began shortly after Newall and his group arrived in Austria last Nov. 22 and rented a house. Acting on a tip, police put the house under surveillance.

Extradition Proceedings

Ottawa THE CITIZEN in English 16 Oct 80 p 72

[Text]

TORONTO (CP) —
The RCMP has started extradition proceedings against 28 persons — including a former British Columbia justice of the peace — to stand trial for their part in a hashish smuggling ring.

"We are hoping to bring every person to trial here in Canada, making it the largest extradition ever undertaken," said federal justice department spokesman Frank Haar.

Peter John Newall, 50, a former Saskatoon police sergeant and B.C. justice of the peace, was arrested last week in Vienna on charges of leading the smuggling ring with headquarters near Fuschl, in Austria's Salzburg province. His wife, Frances, 49, and their son, Cameron, 26, were arrested at

the same time in London.

Robert Danzinger, director-general for public security in Austria, said the arrests represents "the biggest blow against drug traffic in the last years."

An RCMP spokesman said the investigation began in March when a drug trafficker in Victoria gave information to RCMP undercover agents.

The 28 arrests were made with help of local drug enforcement agencies in 16 countries and police said five major smuggling rings in Victoria, Toronto, the United States, Britain and New Zealand were broken.

CSO: 5320

CANADA

DRUG SMUGGLING: A HIDDEN TALENT

Vancouver THE WEEKEND SUN in English 11 Oct 80 p A14

[Article by Peter Menyasz]

[Text]

UNSUSPECTING elderly couples carrying shipments of cocaine. Phoney batteries loaded with heroin. That's hard drug smuggling, and if it happens in the Lower Mainland or the Fraser Valley up to Boston Bar, it's Lyman Henschel's responsibility.

After 24 years in the RCMP, 20 on drug enforcement and organized crime beats in Vancouver, Supt. Henschel has seen it all.

"You and I could sit here all day and try to think of methods of concealment and smuggling and we couldn't think of one that hasn't already been tried. Ingenious methods, some of them. Some of them obviously geared to the belief that 'Hey, the police won't check the obvious.' Some of them are almost intricate in their simplicity."

Henschel doesn't like to talk about the more ingenious methods. He says he's afraid of giving people ideas they might otherwise not have. The RCMP already has its hands full with the methods smugglers are using now, he said.

"We had a shipment of batteries. I think there were about 16,000 and about 3,000 of them were doctored. The only way you can tell one from the other was by actually checking them for current. Somebody's gone to an awful lot of trouble."

Two attempts at the battery trick have been intercepted in Vancouver. In 1977, two men were arrested after police seized a shipment of batteries containing four kilograms of heroin valued at \$10.5 million. In 1978, police discovered another shipment of

phoney batteries containing 135 kilograms of hashish, valued at \$1.5 million.

Vancouver is a major part of the pipeline that supplies North America's heroin abusers, said Henschel. A rough estimate puts B.C.'s heroin user population at 10,000, he said.

"For years now, Vancouver has been the centre of addiction in Canada. Our addict count, or rather user count, rests at something just in excess of 6,000. I don't think you'd have to stretch your imagination too far to acknowledge the fact that we don't know all of the users. Users don't advertise their abuse, so there are others in the woodwork."

Wherever there are heroin users, there is drug smuggling, says Henschel. There are simple reasons why B.C., and Vancouver in particular, draws heroin users.

"One of them is the climate. People can survive virtually on the street here, whereas they can't in other parts of Canada. I also feel that once a market such as this is created it kind of perpetuates its own growth. Inroads are made into international connections for supply, which are dependent on credibility and knowledge; association and acceptance.

"Once that takes hold, a more constant supply is possible."

By constantly monitoring street use, police try to keep track of how much is filtering through. The arrival of a major shipment is usually heralded by a sudden jump in the quantity of heroin available on the open market.

Until 1974, the main source of heroin supply was the Middle East, but production shifted to Southeast Asia after heavy police

and political pressure was put on heroin-producing countries in the Middle East. In recent months, heroin has started flowing through the Middle East pipeline once more.

"One of the things we try to use and that we consider our best measure is what we call price-purity. We find when drugs are abundantly available, the purity will go up because there's competition, and generally the price will go down because there's more of it available. When it's scarce, just the opposite," Henschel said.

Heroin is diluted, or "cut", with neutral substances such as milk, sugar or baking soda to stretch supply and increase profitability.

"At this specific moment and within the last two months, we notice again a gradual increase. We're at about 5.06 per cent on the street, averaged back to January. When heroin is scarce, we'll run into less than one per cent."

This means Vancouver heroin users buying the drug on the street today will get five per cent heroin mixed with 95 per cent inert substance.

Vancouver police are fighting a big increase in cocaine smuggling and use. "It's a different type of drug and it's used by a different type of individual, usually," Henschel said. "We see it more with the nightclub set than the down-and-out street person. . . heroin virtually turns a person into a street person. You don't see that as much with cocaine."

But importation and distribution are much the same as for heroin, and prices are similarly expensive, making it a profitable business, he said. "We see an

interplay there, in the trafficking and importing level. We see more and more people trafficking in both."

While the availability of heroin in Vancouver is increasing, the drug enforcement agency of the U.S. department of justice says heroin use in the Seattle area is dropping off.

The DEA regularly monitors a variety of indicators, including heroin treatment programs, emergency room treatments and coroners' reports, said Leslie Tayer, special agent in charge of drug enforcement in the Seattle area.

"Ours are down in all areas in heroin abuse from previous years. The seizures we make in our enforcement work show that the purity of heroin is down and the price is up. That's one of the bright things on the horizon on heroin."

Even more than in soft drug smuggling, organized crime plays a major role in hard drug smuggling, both at local and international levels, says Henschel.

Although his officers make frequent seizures, some of them major, the continuing availability of heroin on Vancouver's streets is an obvious indication that enforcement is not the whole answer to the drug problem, he said.

"Some times you get the whole organization, but not always. It's been my experience that quite often there are remnants that emerge as a controlling faction."

"It's a constant battle, necessitating regular adjustment to new groups that emerge and new tactics. It's not just a case of saying, 'Here's Mr. Big. We'll wipe him out and that's it.' It doesn't work that way. It's a game of wits and it's played for keeps and it's played on an international scale."

Only Big Capers Catch the Public Eye

Although not all police seizures of drug shipments reach the public's attention, the stories of some of the major finds make their way into print. This is a picture of B.C.'s drug trade compiled from reports of seizure, the majority of which resulted in convictions and stiff sentences, over the last three years.

March 14, 1977: One man arrested for trafficking after police catch him trying to move 300 kilograms of marijuana by boat from the Olympic Peninsula to Sidney, B.C.

May 11, 1977: Police find 2.3 tonnes of Thai sticks, valued at \$25-\$30 million, buried in a fibreglass septic tank near Chilliwack. Method of importation from Thailand unknown.

(A Thai stick is a shoot of bamboo, 10 to 15 centimetres long, wrapped tightly with the flowering tops of the female marijuana plant, sometimes as much as twice the potency of male plant.)

Oct. 14, 1977: Cache of heroin worth \$2.25 million found by hiker near Lions Bay.

Oct. 15, 1977: Three persons charged in ring suspected of shipping 1,500 kilograms of heroin, valued at \$3 billion, to outlets on four continents from Southeast Asia.

Nov. 20, 1977: Three Vancouver men arrested with more than 135 kilograms of South African marijuana, imported by sea in drums containing granular wax.

Feb. 14, 1978: Fourteen persons charged in connection with importing 23 kilograms of heroin, valued at more than \$37 million, from Mexico over a period of years.

March 9, 1978: Victoria man arrested at Vancouver airport with 8.8 kilograms of cocaine, valued at \$3 million, in a suitcase. Ten other men were arrested on conspiracy charges.

April 18, 1978: Freighter Helena Star seized on high seas 220 kilometres off Cape Flattery, loaded with 33.6 tonnes of marijuana valued at \$74 million. Nine persons arrested: seven Colombian crewmen, a Brazilian and a Mexican captain. Original destination believed to be Victoria.

July 15, 1978: Fifteen men arrested in Shelter Inlet, north of Totino, with 12.4 tonnes of Colombian marijuana during a raid by 50 RCMP officers and two Canadian Forces vessels on two boats, the 36-metre Toerny and the 21-metre Weatherly.

Sept. 5, 1978: Three men arrested in connection with importing one kilogram of heroin, valued at more than \$3 million, from Hong Kong by air.

Oct. 22, 1978: High-speed chase off Washington coast of two boats being loaded with about 25 bales of marijuana and Thai sticks. Police arrest three men, but the others escape.

Dec. 14, 1978: Ten Kamloops residents charged with importing morphine from India through the mail after \$50,000 worth of drug seized.

May 22, 1979: Marijuana, 30.4 tonnes worth \$100 million, seized in raid at No Name Bay, 32 kilometres north of Totino. Two vessels seized, Samarkanda and Whitecap. Twenty-three men arrested, 17 from Latin America.

Oct. 15, 1979: B.C. man arrested with 545 kilograms of marijuana in brown cardboard boxes, trying to smuggle it by car from Bellingham into Canada.

March 5, 1980: Seven Lower Mainland residents charged after 545 kilograms of marijuana, worth \$2 million, was seized in a Mission home. Drug was believed to have been imported by air from Thailand.

June 1, 1980: Surrey man charged in connection with a seizure of two kilograms of cocaine, valued at \$2 million, on a flight from Lima, Peru.

July, 1980: 455 kilograms of hashish sat at Vancouver airport for four months unclaimed while police waited for someone to come and pick it up. Drug was shipped by air from Pakistan in boxes labelled medical supplies.

Aug. 1, 1980: Two persons charged after arriving on flight from Tokyo with 256 grams of heroin, valued at \$2.1 million.

Aug., 1980: Police arrest Bangkok man with 2.5 kilograms of almost pure heroin, valued at \$19 million.

Aug. 27, 1980: 290 bales of Thai sticks, valued at about \$10 million found washed up on shore of Cape Flattery.

Oct. 8, 1980: Twenty-seven persons charged after police smash Vancouver-based drug smuggling ring that stretched as far as Peru. Heroin and cocaine worth \$10.5 million seized.

Oct. 9, 1980: Eight persons in Victoria and 20 others in Europe and Britain were arrested after police seized millions of dollars of hashish, hashish oil and marijuana.

CSO: 5320

CANADA

MAJOR VANCOUVER-BASED DRUG RING SMASHED

Vancouver THE VANCOUVER SUN in English 9 Oct 80 pp A1, A2

[Text]

A major Vancouver-based heroin and cocaine trafficking ring has been cracked — with the bonus of a \$10.5 million return on a \$100,000 outlay by policemen who posed as traffickers themselves in a 16-month international investigation stretching as far as Peru.

Twenty-seven persons have been charged — 21 of them are in custody — in the combined operation by the Coordinated Law Enforcement Unit and the Vancouver and Toronto RCMP drug squads.

Announcement that the roundup was under way was made at a press conference Wednesday when RCMP assistant commissioner Henry Jensen and Vancouver police deputy chief Bob Stewart issued a press release that carried a "top secret till released" heading.

They forecast that the sweep — in which undercover officers spent \$100,000 on almost pure heroin and high grade cocaine — will create a "significant vacuum" in the availability of those drugs in Vancouver.

"Had this group been able to establish itself, it could have created a serious problem at the street level for us," said Jensen.

With the \$100,000 purchases by undercover officers — and seizures that arose out of the investigation — police have in their possession drugs with a total street value of \$10.5 million.

The purity of the heroin purchased as evidence ranged as high as 95 per cent, the cocaine at 79 per cent. The average strength of heroin used by addicts on the

street is under five per cent and that of cocaine is generally 20 per cent or less.

Suspects arrested in the Lower Mainland were scheduled to appear in Vancouver provincial court today, while the seven suspects arrested in the Toronto area were to be flown to Vancouver for court appearances on their arrival.

In the investigation, according to the police account given Wednesday, a senior RCMP sergeant spent 11 months undercover both in Vancouver and Toronto posing as a major drug dealer from New York City. He was able to infiltrate what is alleged to be the top echelon of a Vancouver-based group with ties to Toronto.

A second Vancouver RCMP officer, working with the first, also made purchases of heroin in Toronto.

Law enforcement officials in Lima, Peru, also cooperated in the investigation. They arrested four British Columbians and one Peruvian last year, seizing one kilogram of cocaine.

Jensen said the arrests point out a change to a trend in hard-drug movement in Canada. Law enforcement officials in the past have noted that most hard drugs enter Vancouver and are distributed to the east, but in this case the drugs apparently entered the country in the east and were transported to Vancouver.

Police said the cocaine came from an unidentified area in South America, and the heroin from the Middle East.

Charged with both conspiracy to traffic in heroin and conspiracy to traffic in cocaine are:

Giovanni Cagliardi, 33, of 1106-1651 Harwood; Guiseppe Biasi, 35, of 1750 Kitchener; Carmelo Gallo, 35, of 8180 Burnfield Cres., Burnaby; Pasquale Lucio Longo, 28, of 948 Semlin; Mario Franko Magisano, 30, of 92-10891 Mortfield Drive, Richmond; and Antonio Finamore, 33, of 246 Chester Ct., Coquitlam, or 3864 Pine, Burnaby.

Charged with conspiracy to traffic in cocaine are:

Vanda Meszaros, 25, and Guiseppe Fuoco, 26, both of 5821 Commercial Drive; Dominico Mobilio, 28, of 4548 Union, Burnaby; Stefano Pella, 45, of 5480 Cathay Road, Richmond; Nicola Alfredo Priozzi, 32, of 1775 Windermere; and Dominic Pepe, 22, of 825 West 45th.

Charged with heroin conspiracy are:

Robert John McClellan, 28, of 11795-90 Ave., Delta, and Roberto Mantelli, age unknown, of 206-1517 Charles.

The seven Toronto-area residents charged with heroin conspiracy are: Francesco Commisso, 24; John Stewart Sanita, 35; Peter Senatore, 32; Antonio Simonetta, 35; Francesco Loiero, 22; Claudio Di Matteo, 28; and Armando Tontarelli, age unknown.

CSO: 5320

CANADA

SMUGGLERS' HEAVEN A HUGE HEADACHE FOR B.C. DRUG SQUAD

Vancouver THE WEEKEND SUN in English 11 Oct 80 p A1

[Article by Peter Menyasz]

[Text]

BC. IS a drug smuggler's paradise. During the past three years, recorded seizures of drugs in B.C. add up to a street value of about \$300 million.

And police say they intercept only 10 percent of total traffic. That puts B.C.'s three-year total of drug business at \$3 billion — not far behind the province's \$4.4 billion figure for tourism for the same period — and authorities say that may be only a conservative estimate.

What brings drug smugglers to B.C.? The same scenery and weather that makes tourism the province's third largest industry. The rugged coastline gives access to isolated spots where smugglers can land their goods, while heavy port, airport and border traffic provides an effective screen for heroin and cocaine importers.

Until recently, drug smugglers favored the east coast of North America because it is closer to drug-supplying countries. Most soft drugs, grown in South America, landed on the southeast coast of the U.S., while heroin flowed from the Middle East through the French Connection to the eastern seaboard.

But a police crackdown on the southeast coast has forced marijuana smugglers to look for safer landing spots, and political and economic pressure on heroin-producing countries in the Middle East forced a shift to sources in Southeast Asia.

The result is a massive headache for police in B.C. and Washington State. They have neither the people nor the resources to control drug smugglers, and the increased availability of drugs in this area is supporting an increase in the numbers of drug users. That in turn brings increased smuggling.

Getting an accurate picture of drug smuggling is tough, but RCMP drug enforcement specialists say finding a solution to the problem may well be impossible.

RCMP Supt. Scotty Gardiner, responsible for all drug investigation along B.C.'s coastline, says the only way to ultimately stop soft drug traffic is to cut the supply off at the source.

"I don't want to be naive, but that's got to be the ultimate goal. I don't care if there's a century of difficulties — we've got to start someplace."

Better education is the key, says RCMP Supt. Lyman Henschel, who is responsible for drug traffic control in the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley. "There has to be an additional emphasis placed on the demand side of the cycle, directed toward discouragement of abuse through education and/or treatment programs. I don't think we can place all the emphasis on enforcement alone."

"Let's face it. The trade is driven by the profit motive, essentially human greed. There is tremendous money to be made in the business. That's what it's all about."

Without drug users, the drug trade would quickly wither and disappear, he said.

Until a solution comes along, Canadian law enforcement officials say they are hamstrung in their efforts to control the flow of drugs by outdated laws that shield organized crime from financial scrutiny and legal loopholes that let drug smugglers off the hook.

"There must be change in the laws," Gardiner said. "When you find insulation in the present legislation that lets the wrongdoer benefit from crime, without any means of accountability, that may be cause for legislative change. How many privileges should he be able to pluck out of society's kettle of goodies and insulate himself with?"

Canada's maritime laws make it difficult for law enforcement officers to collect sufficient evidence on potential drug smugglers. U.S. laws, honed to perfection by precedents set in Prohibition days, allow U.S. law enforcement agencies access to any ship that enters their territorial waters.

But Canadian maritime law has a loophole protecting ships that drift into Canadian waters due to mechanical difficulties; regardless of the nature of their business. The recent seizure of 30 tonnes of marijuana aboard the Samarkanda near Tofino ended in charges being dropped against most of the participants because of that technicality.

That shouldn't be possible, says Gardiner. "When people can bring 30

tonnes of marijuana onto our shores and go out from a courtroom Scot free, maybe that in itself shows that the law in is need of legislative change right now. But regardless of that case, no matter what happens, if another one comes along we'll go after it with the same tenacity we went after the last one.

"I'm an optimist. I'm a realistic optimist and I can see that there is an answer. It won't come easily and it won't be done by one country. It will be a world attack on it."

CSO: 5320

CANADA

POLICE REPORT SAYS DRUG 'HEAD SHOPS' SHOULD BE BANNED

Ottawa THE CITIZEN in English 28 Aug 80 p 18

[Text]

MONTREAL (CP) — A report on organized crime prepared for the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police calls for the abolition of "head shops" which distribute drug-related literature and equipment, and opposes moves to decriminalize the use of marijuana.

Increased drug use topped the contents of the committee report submitted to the association Wednesday, opening with the blunt statement: "Canada is a full partner in a massive worldwide proliferation of drug abuse."

Peer pressure and a bombardment of information glorifying the use of drugs are underlined in a recommendation for the abolition through municipal, provincial or federal statutes of head shops selling aids "that facilitate or enhance the use of drugs."

"When our country completes its announced intention of softening sentences for cannabis users,

the very real danger of an increased market and demand will exist," the report says. "It will not serve our country well for traffickers to know they can meet this (demand) with relative impunity."

The report calls for drug prevention and education programs in elementary schools. Factual education on the issue is usually available only in grades seven and eight, says the report, citing studies showing that in grade seven, 10.4 per cent of students had used marijuana once in the last 12 months, 4.3 per cent had used LSD, 4.2 per cent had used cocaine and 1.9 per cent had used heroin.

"The value of illicit imported drugs is between \$3 billion and \$4 billion," it says, adding that about \$4.6 million worth of drugs were seized last year at Toronto international airport. Between one per cent and three per cent of the drugs entering Canada

are estimated to arrive through Toronto.

Heroin availability was limited and sporadic across the country in 1979, but it has increased in the first quarter of 1980, says the report.

Of note was a reported decline in the number of heroin users in the Vancouver area to 6,000 from 6,200.

Southeast Asia remains the primary source for heroin, accounting for 90 per cent of the market, and the remainder is shipped in from the Middle East, the report says.

The RCMP, which seized almost three kilograms of the narcotic in Vancouver in 1979, says purity of the drug recently has stabilized at between eight per cent and nine per cent. Heroin in Montreal has been analysed at up to 68 per cent purity.

CSO: 5320

CANADA

DISCRETION TO BE USED IN TRIALS FOR DRUGS

Toronto THE GLOBE AND MAIL in English 10 Oct 80 p 5

[Text]

The federal Justice Department has decided to soften its approach to marijuana smuggling cases, exercising more discretion in laying importing charges, which carry a minimum seven-year prison term.

Larry Olsson, director of the Toronto regional office of the Justice Department, said in an interview yesterday that prosecutors "have moved in the direction of proceeding with fewer (importing) cases."

Mr. Olsson said Justice Minister Jean Chretien's announcement in June that the federal Government will eliminate the seven-year minimum term for importing convictions was a strong factor in the decision to ease up on laying the charge.

The Justice Minister's announcement was "a pretty significant indication of the sort of attitude the Government is taking to these things," Mr. Olsson said.

People who are caught bringing marijuana into the country with the intention of making a profit may be charged instead with possession for the purpose of trafficking, which does not carry a minimum prison term.

In the past five years, 228 people have been convicted in Canada of importing illegal drugs. This figure includes those convicted of importing heroin and cocaine, for which the minimum term would still apply under legislative changes being considered by Mr. Chretien.

Mr. Olsson said that he and his colleagues across Canada have also taken into account the change in the climate of opinion toward marijuana. "Probably it's true that (drug) convictions that might have got 10-or-12-year prison terms 15 years ago would get a much shorter sentence today."

CSO: 5320

CANADA

BRIEFS

VANCOUVER DRUG SWEEP--North Vancouver RCMP continued today their sweep of suspected cocaine dealers in an undercover operation aimed at street-level pushers. Nine suspects were taken into custody Thursday but police did not disclose the number of warrants issued. A police spokesman said no further details would be released until all suspects were apprehended. During the two-month operation police paid from \$150 a gram to \$3,900 an ounce for cocaine that ranged in purity from five to 71 per cent. [Text] [Vancouver THE VANCOUVER SUN in English 29 Aug 80 p A3]

HEROIN IMPORTER JAILED--A man found guilty of importing more than five pounds of pure heroin from Bangkok was sentenced Tuesday in county court to 16 years in prison. Judge D. T. Wetmore said he would have imposed a 20-year term on Ning Aka Leulom, 34, except for the fact that his prospects of reward for his actions were minimal. Ning had testified in his own defence that a wealthy woman he knew in Bangkok had given him a trip to Vancouver and supplied him with spending money and luggage. But Ning said he didn't know that the luggage contained five pounds of almost pure heroin, worth \$20 million on the street in Vancouver. The judge accepted submissions by Ken Conner that Ning was actually a dupe who had been "wilfully blind as to what was in the luggage." Conner argued that this put Ning in a slightly different character from a heroin courier who knowingly brought the drug into Canada in a bodypack. "That's the only thing Ning has got going for him," the lawyer said. "And that is the degree of culpability in that he didn't know what was in the bags." However, Judge Wetmore said he could not accept Conner's suggestion that Ning was really an uneducated peasant. Ning had been a taxi driver in Bangkok. [Text] [Vancouver THE VANCOUVER SUN in English 10 Sep 80 p A11]

ORIENT HEROIN LINK BROKEN--A roundup of suspected heroin and cocaine traffickers is under way in the Vancouver area, with 45 suspects facing a total of 67 trafficking charges. Police said the latest roundup, aimed at suspected suppliers and importers, is the culmination of a six-month undercover operation. According to police, the action has broken links with the Orient and is expected to sharply reduce the street level supply of the narcotics over the next several months. [Text] [Vancouver THE VANCOUVER SUN in English 11 Sep 80 p A2]

CSO: 5320

BOLIVIA

JUNTA'S FINANCIAL CONNECTIONS WITH DRUG TRAFFICKERS REPORTED

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[Article by Francoise Jodet-Gouin]

[Text] Santa Cruz, a border post, population 280,000, one of the centers of cocaine traffic. Impossible not to notice the little game of a small plane that is describing circles before landing. It is going to set down right away on the runway of Kutuchi Gutierrez, one of the region's Mafiosi. Montero, the cocaine capital, is very close by. Seven years ago, by the greatest chance, I was invited to an estancia. I did not then know that it belonged to a trafficker. Today Montero is a drowsy city. It is 30° C. American automobiles line the square, covered with grass and paved walkways, the rendezvous spot for the young in the evening. The limousines have one peculiarity, they do not have license plates; they have been smuggled in. Riders in jeans and cowboy hats seem to have come out of a western. Their mounts prance around trucks full of coca leaves.

The strong man around here is Gen Echeverria, the commander of the Second Santa Cruz Battalion, whose second in command is Col Lara, the commander of the Ranger Regiment. They are in charge of surveillance of the department of Santa Cruz (370 square km in area, population 712,000). The region is covered with estancias where sugar cane, cotton, rice and coffee are grown. On these farms another occupation is also engaged in, one that is making the region's fortune: the transforming of coca into basic paste.

Gone are the days when the peasants chewed coca to forget their hunger. Now, in the local markets, one has a hard time unearthing a chola (a half-breed Indian) who consents to sell a bag or two (\$10 per kilo). For crushing the leaves mixed with kerosene the campesinos [countrymen] of Montero today earn their monthly salary in three days: 1,000 or 2,000 pesos (160 to 320 francs).

Gen Echeverria and Col Lara have under them paramilitary personnel who have been incorporated into the army. They are called "assessors." Their leaders are Rudy Landivar, Julio Canido and Abraham Baptista. Into this shock group are integrated German mercenaries who come from Paraguay and are installed in two "security houses" in Santa Cruz. These two buildings are used as an arsenal and a drug warehouse.

Early in July Jose Paz, the head of the Montero Mafia, put \$800,000 on Gen Echeverria's table--his contribution to the coup d'etat. Several days later the architect of the putsch, Garcia Meza, received a still more significant sum, believed to be at least \$1,000,000. The generous donors were Edwin Gasser, the owner of the sugar mill, "La Belgica," and Pedro Bleyer of Santa Cruz' Chamber of Commerce and Industry. These dollars were used chiefly to "convince" the reluctant military and to finance part of the coup d'etat. Some days later, on 17 July 1980, Gen Gracia Meza seized power. Today the sugar mills of Santa Cruz are operating at full capacity; they are being used to launder the dollars of the Colombian and North American traffickers who have come to buy cocaine. By placing their friends in the government the smugglers are assured of total impunity. Never has illicit trade been so flourishing; the American Interpol mission has had to withdraw. How can control be exercised? Several ministers are involved in this very lucrative trade.

According to the customs commander, over 100 clandestine runways are operating in Santa Cruz (see HOY of 22 August 1980). Landing on them are the little planes and the helicopters of those who snap their fingers at the laws: officials or civilians connected with the Bolivian armed forces. Washington authorities estimate the volume of the traffic operations at \$500,000,000 annually.

Three principal groups, linked with each other, are obedient to a coordinated leadership:

The Roberto Suarez group can be considered the most dynamic; it is the best protected militarily. Production, evaluated at 20,000 kilograms of basic cocaine paste per year, is provided by the Chavez brothers of Montero and Pepe Paz. They are assisted by commando units composed of German mercenaries and Bolivian paramilitary personnel directed by Paye Gonzales. The little planes of Arce Gomez, the present minister of the Interior, are loaded with freight. Early in 1980 one of the planes had to make a forced landing in Trinidad; 300 kilograms of cocaine were discovered in the hold.

The second group, Jorge Nallar's group, has much larger production: 30,000 kilograms of basic paste per year, refined in the areas of Monteverde, Okinawa, Perseverancia, north of Santa Cruz. Two men, Omar Cassib and Abraham Baptista, direct the commandos. The heads of the traffic are Widen Razuk, the former prefect of Santa Cruz under Banzer, and the Asbuns of La Paz. Since June 1980 Miguel Razuk, the brother of Widen, has been imprisoned in New York for drug trafficking. Miguel Razuk's best friend is Col Rico Toro, chief of the army's Section II (information service).

The third group, that of Alfredo "kutuchi" Gutierrez is directed by the present prefect of Santa Cruz, Oscar Raman Vaca, and Roberto Gasser. It produced 20,000 kilograms annually in the region of Cosorio, Rio Grande and San Javier. The straw man is Mozo Rojas. Roberto Gasser is the son of Edwin Gasser, one of Garcia Meza's backers. It was he who supported Banzer in 1971 when he overthrew the leftist Torres regime. Edwin Gasser spoke this sentence on German television: "Bolivia's German groups financed the coup d'etat, because it was a game to buy the military." Obviously Banzer and his successor, Gen Pendera, have always closed their eyes to the transactions of Santa Cruz' sugar producers and to their relations with Colombian and North American narcotics traffickers.

In June 1980 Gasser junior, the editor of the rightist newspaper EL MUNDO, president of the Santa Cruz Chamber of Commerce and Industry, was arrested in Miami with Alfredo Kutuchi Gutierrez. They had brought into the United States 530 kilograms of cocaine. In addition, they were accused of laundering checks from the traffic.

They will be released after they have paid \$1,000,000 (for Gasser) and \$1,500,000 (for Kutuchi Gutierrez) bail in cash.

Kutuchi's shock groups were organized by Monroy, nicknamed "el Mosca" (The Mouth). Monroy is currently the head of the paramilitary. Monroy was imprisoned as a dealer in drugs under Guevara (June-November 1969). Released by an army officer on 17 July 1980, he seized the Quemado Palace (government headquarters). It was he who directed the taking of the COB (Bolivian Workers' Group) and arrested the principal leaders. For all these operations he uses ambulances stolen from the parking lots of the "insurance funds."

Early in September Monroy left for Canada with four acolytes, all of them armed with diplomatic passports and false identities. Their mission was to kill Jaime Paz Zamora, the leader of the MIR (Revolutionary Left Movement). Monroy was in Paris for several days. In 1971 this same Monroy had already distinguished himself: when Torres fell he had seized 68 kilograms of pure cocaine that had been seized by the police, and resold them.

In June 1979 a certain Romero was arrested in Panama with a shipment of cocaine. He confessed, denouncing his chief--Aviation Col Ariel Coca, the current minister of Education. Ariel Coca chaired the Bolivian delegation to the general conference of UNESCO that was held in Belgrade from 23 to 28 September 1980. Ariel Coca shields the Kutuchi Gutierrez group. Kutuchi's private airport with its 7 km of runway is Bolivia's primary civilian airport. The cadets of the Santa Cruz Military Aviation College train there. But its runways are ordinarily reserved for smuggling, via Asuncion, Miami and Panama.

The Santa Cruz-Panama-Miami line of the LAB [Bolivian Air Line] is very profitable; a tourist can never find a seat, all the chairs are occupied by smugglers. In Miami I learned that six Bolivian consuls are stationed there. The second consul is Roberto Ortiz Saucedo, the cousin of Arce Gomez and the owner of the Caballito Blanco, a Santa Cruz nightclub. Ortiz Saucedo is known to be a consumer of cocaine. Saucedo's sister, Mimi Ortiz Saucedo, is married to Edwin Gasser, the owner of the la Belgica sugar refinery we spoke of earlier. There are also some agents of Lloyd Aero (the Bolivian commercial line) who are heavily involved in the traffic.

The smuggling is such that Jorge Lonsdale, the manufacturer of Bellows, the national whiskey, denounced this black market in the newspaper LA PRESENCIA; foreign whiskey often costs less today than national whiskey. Two accidents involving Bolivian planes that crashed, one in Panama and the other on the Peruvian coast, provided further proof: their holds were full of contraband merchandise. There is even a smugglers' union, the "Union of Retail Sellers," which includes thousands of smugglers who transport the merchandise from border to border. It is a veritable ant-hill; anyone who "falls" is quickly replaced.

Most of the officers of the Bolivian army profit from this smuggling; their automobiles have almost all been imported fraudulently.

Gen Waldo Bernal, the commander of the air force, has just acquired in this way a superb \$300,000 villa in Calacoto, a residential section of La Paz. Now, his monthly salary is \$1,000. Bernal is associated with Edwin Tapia Frontanilla (Banzer's former minister) in a civilian assessors' office. When Banzer was in power Frontanilla did not hesitate to request diplomatic passports for two individuals who were captured in

1975 by the Canadian police when they were transporting drugs. They will be sentenced to 20 years in prison.

Marcelo Ostria Trigo, the present foreign relations secretary, had formed under Banzer (with his consul brother in Italy) a drug network in several Bolivian consulates. The scandal that exploded, by the way, was one of the causes of Banzer's downfall. The advent of Garcia Meza saved Jose Gamara Zorilla, who was since named economic assessor, by a sad piece of deception. Under Banzer Gamara had a budget of \$35,000,000 for the Bolivian games. Just before the 17 July coup d'etat, he was served with a writ for misappropriation of funds. Gamara and attorney Carlos Gonzales are the directors of the los Sargentos equestrian club, whose lounges welcomed Argentinians and were used in preparing for the coup d'etat. In gratitude, Gamara received a new budget of \$1,000,000 and the complaint was withdrawn.

Most of the people of the new Bolivian regime are involved in one traffic or another. To throw people off the scent President Garcia Meza is inaugurating an anti-drug campaign. Up to the present only a few small dealers have been arrested. Will he dare imprison part of his government?

(I cannot sign this article without compromising the Bolivians who took me in and helped me.)

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BRAZIL

ROLES OF FOUR COUNTRIES IN COCAINE TRADE VIEWED

Sao Paulo VEJA in Portuguese 8 Oct 80 pp 64-70

[Article by Marcos Sa Correa from Bogota: "The Broad Front of the Cocaine Trade"]

[Text] Military personnel in Bolivia, communists in Peru, businessmen in Colombia and Indians in Brazil have joined hands with police in the billion dollar cocaine trade.

The economic integration of Latin America is starting where no one ever imagined it could--with the illegal trade in cocaine. This traffic (which has flourished ever since the drug came into vogue internationally in the 1970's and has created, in the United States alone, a captive market of 6.5 million consumers) is today the only activity on the continent which brings together as partners--sharing the same interests--the military in Bolivia; the communists in Cuzco, Peru; businessmen in Colombia; Brazilian Indians of the upper Rio Negro, in Amazonas; and a multinational organization of corrupt police, nationalist politicians, and technocrats in democratic governments and dictatorships alike.

This entire community--so very eclectic in its composition--either shares to some extent in the current cocaine-induced prosperity or defends it. The most famous component in this community is the new Bolivian military regime. When General Garcia Meza seized power in a coup 2 months ago the American Government alleged that the coup had its origin in a conspiracy between generals in La Paz, on the one hand, and traffickers in Santa Cruz de la Sierra. This is not to say that cocaine took control of Bolivia overnight. Long before this drug controlled politics it already controlled the national economy, and its current prominence is merely the result of the overt rise of traffickers to key posts in the government. Bolivian exports clearing customs total \$800 million, whereas the cocaine trade this year will total more than \$1 billion.

Coca--the shrub from whose leaves cocaine is extracted--is planted legally in Bolivia by more than 13,000 farmers scattered throughout Chapare and Los Yungas provinces. Officially, these farmers are supplying a traditional market--the "acullicadores," or chewers, of coca leaves, who make up approximately two-thirds of the Bolivian population. The plant--which Bolivians have consumed for centuries--serves simultaneously as a sedative, a vitamin supplement, an agent for appetite control, a stimulant, and an antidote for the effects of altitude in the Andes. In the name of this custom, the government has always resisted international pressures to eradicate coca.

Using this as a pretext, a total of 25,000 tons of leaf per year is produced in Bolivia despite the fact that the "chewers" consume a total of only 6,000 tons. The rest is converted into cocaine paste and pure cocaine by laboratories that are nominally clandestine, and are dispatched by traffickers to the billion-dollar world market for narcotics. The "junction" for this traffic is the city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, the base for Garcia Meza's coup and an oasis of economic growth in a country whose economy has remained virtually stagnant since the nation's birth.

New Generation

Santa Cruz is an amazing story. The quotation for the dollar is lower there than in the capital, La Paz, because the dollars flow freely from the coffers of the traffickers. No fewer than 25 air taxi companies operate out of its airport, for they are a working tool which is today almost indispensable in this business--and their 150 small planes are in a state of readiness to transport the contraband drugs to Colombia and the United States. There are color TV sets in the local stores, even though the only Bolivian television channel transmits solely in black and white. The city has, moreover, a number of illustrious names in its telephone directory such as that of the Gasser family (of Swiss origin) which at the turn of the century brought the first sugar refineries to Santa Cruz and in 1971 brought Gen Hugo Banzer to the government palace in La Paz.

The new generation of Gassers appears to be adding another product besides sugar to its refining activities: cocaine. Last May Roberto Gasser Terazza, who inherited the chieftaincy of the Gasser clan and is president of the local Chamber of Industry and Commerce, was arrested in Miami (the mecca for the Latin American drug connection in the United States) with 300 kilograms of cocaine in his luggage.

Within 24 hours the family had posted bail--\$1 million in cold cash--whereupon Roberto fled back to Santa Cruz. By coincidence, ether and acetone--agents used in the manufacture of sugar--also enter into the chemistry of cocaine. Generally speaking, many Latin Americans are not interested in working directly with the powder. The principal product on the continent is still cocaine paste, which is preferred by the trafficker because it is less susceptible to deterioration under the uncertain conditions of clandestine transportation.

Cocaine is being transported increasingly today along the main routes of Latin America: 25 tons per year are going to the United States alone. Since last July, 15 planes per week have taken off from Santa Cruz with paste for Bogota. Each plane carries approximately 500 kilograms of the paste. Colonel Arzabe Glaver, who until 2 weeks ago headed the Santa Cruz office of the National Department To Combat Dangerous Substances, admitted to VEJA that "in Santa Cruz Department alone 600 illegal airstrips are being used for the smuggling operation." Arzabe Glaver--who as a Bolivian citizen used to serve coca tea in his office--was dismissed on the very day he announced: "Within 6 months the narcotics traffic will have disappeared from Bolivia."

An Excellent Image

All of this gave to Bolivia a prominence which it actually did not deserve, in the light of its strictly economic significance in the world market for cocaine--a product which is supplied only by Latin America. The largest producer--by far--of coca leaves and paste on the continent is discreet Peru, where traditions similar to



those of Bolivia ensure the existence of legal coca plantations. In Peru there is even a state enterprise--ENACO [National Coca Enterprise]--to supervise the plantations and the marketing of coca. This enterprise should theoretically set strict limits based on the requirements of the pharmaceutical industry and on the chemical requirements of Coca-Cola, which uses the leaf (minus the toxic alkaloid) to impart flavor to its soft drink. Also in contrast to Bolivia--which the American anti-narcotics police abandoned 2 months ago--in Peru the government collaborates religiously with the program of the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) of the United States Department of Justice to combat the coca traffic and eradicate the "coca plantations."

Whereas Bolivia won notoriety through the controversial, almost picturesque role played by coca in its national life, in Peru everything takes place within the framework of a magnificent legalistic fiction. This is excellent for the country's international image but does virtually nothing to assist in the policing of the drug traffic, which flourishes in Peru as never before. The country is thus experiencing a paradoxical situation--a situation which Maj Hugo Tello Infante of the PIP (Peruvian Investigative Police) summed up as follows: "Peru is the largest producer of coca in the world, makes the best cocaine paste in the world, and has the best antidrug law in the world." Tello was referring to Decree-Law No 22,095, authored by former president Morales Bermudez, who incidentally during his administration had the misfortune to have a son arrested in Los Angeles in May of last year with a consignment of cocaine in his luggage.

Manifestos

Just as Morales Bermudez' son, some months ago another famous member of the Lima "establishment," Maj Gen Frank Tweddle--former president of AeroPeru, former member of the Inter-American Defense Board and former interventor (for the 1965 revolution) in the commercial aviation sector--was apprehended at the Lima airport with 5.3 kilograms of cocaine in a suitcase. He is currently in prison awaiting trial. This arrest is credited to the DEA, whose chief agent in Lima, William Wetherington--one of the dozens of policemen maintained by the DEA in half a dozen Latin American capitals in the hope of disrupting the cocaine traffic at its sources--has a card index containing 3,000 names of Peruvians suspected of involvement in the traffic.

There is only one better list--that of the highly legal National Coca Growers Front, which is publicly combating the official policy which calls for eradication of the plant in Peru (by law only small growers who have no more than 10 hectares can keep their "coca plantations" beginning this year. The Front publishes (in daily newspapers) manifestos in the name of the 100,000 coca growers who account for almost 90,000 hectares of coca plantings in Peru. This category of growers is in the midst of an overt expansion: there are today 6 times as many coca growers than there were listed in ENACO's records in 1976, when the national eradication plan was prepared.

In Peru, the drug traffic did not take over the government but is fighting it for every inch of ground. There are three towns in Peru--Paraiso, San Francisco and Cadipuchara--where to date no federal authority has been established. From time to time the Peruvian police stage a raid in these areas, apprehend traffickers, and destroy the "wells" in which the paste is made. Immediately thereafter (as the police themselves admit) life in these areas reverts to the control of the traffickers, who in Cadipuchara (on the shores of Lake Titicaca at the Bolivian border) even have their own militia. "It is said that these people even have a cannon," Maj

Tello Infante declares. Taken together, these three "free cities" produce approximately 1,500 kilograms of coca paste per month and have their own airports to deliver the paste to the Colombian traffickers who are the principal middlemen for the contraband traffic from Bolivia, Peru and Colombia itself to the United States--the Number One market--and the largest refiners of cocaine in the world.

New Fortunes

The production and sale of cocaine in Colombia generate (according to the conservative estimate of the National Association of Financial Agents) \$460 million per year. The actual total is probably much larger: estimates by the Colombian police put it at something like \$2.8 billion. The figures for the traffic in Colombia are astounding. Taken together, cocaine and marihuana (the country's principal agricultural product, ranking even ahead of coffee) generate probably \$7 billion and have created a parallel economy which today represents 40 percent of the official economy. This money--the "underground economy" of Colombia--has given rise to a curious polemic.

President Turbay Ayala announced last month on San Andres--an island in the Caribbean which strangely enough functions as a warehouse for contraband in transit between Colombia and the United States--that the government has commissioned an interministerial committee to investigate the origin of new fortunes in the country with the aim of striking at the drug merchants. ANIF [National Association of Financial Institutions], which had already made a study of this mystery, is moving in a completely different direction, however. At the present moment this austere clique of Colombian finance is heading a campaign to legalize marihuana and thereby to bring to the surface at least a part of this buried treasure. "These narcodollars," says Semper Pizano, the president of ANIF, "are buying consciences, political campaigns, judges, hotels, casinos, restaurants and airline companies."

Semper Pizano is not exaggerating. For example, at least 25 percent of the stock of Aero Condor--a traditional Colombian airline company--are held by the well-known trafficker Julio Calderon of Barranquilla, the largest city on Colombia's Caribbean coast, where even the taxi drivers of the Hotel El Prado offer to take tour guests to the residences of the traffickers. As they drive they recite names and addresses: "Calderon, 76th Street and 58th Avenue; Valdezblanco, 67th Street and 54th Avenue; Enrique Coronado, 59th Street and 54th Avenue...." If the passenger has an order to place he need only say so.

Suspicious Sums of Money

If the addresses of the traffickers of Barranquilla are this open and aboveboard, it is because the traffickers understand the principles in force in the locality where they live. Last year the police chief of Barranquilla ordered a raid on these mansions--and was fired on orders from the Ministry of Defense. Heading the ministry today is a vigorous enemy of the traffic: Gen Luis Camacho Leyva. However, as always seems to occur with so many Latin American authorities, he too has family problems: his brother Alfonso Leyva, an official of the American embassy, was arrested in June with 1.5 kilograms of cocaine in his possession. Some months ago the office of public prosecutor of the republic conducted an investigation into the involvement of politicians with drugs. The only result has been an unceasing debate in the congress--a controversy in which all the political parties are accusing each other of having received suspicious sums of money during the last election campaign, in May.

It could hardly have been very different, with thousands of jobs and a life style at stake. The "boom" in cocaine on the American market--which spends \$13.5 billion per year on the powder (equivalent to one-fourth of the Brazilian foreign debt) found Colombians last week ready to assume control of the market; they were already the vendors of marihuana to the Americans. There are 50,000 Colombians in Miami--and in Miami, according to Senator William Proxmire, chairman of the banking committee of the American Senate, six out of 10 banks handle the accounts of traffickers. In southern Florida today any banking transaction in excess of \$6,000 carried out by nontraditional customers must be registered at the American Central Bank [sic], which in turn transmits the information to the Department of Justice. All in all, a total of \$54 billion per year circulates in the drug market of the United States.

Direct Line

The Colombians taught their Latin American neighbors the route for the drugs. They did such a good job of teaching that 2 weeks ago the attention of the Brazilian Federal Police in Manaus was attracted to the sudden dedication of the Maku and Uanapixuna tribes, living on the Colombian border, to the growing of "ipadu" [*Erythroxylum cataractum* Spr.]. Samples of the plant were collected: the "ipadu" that was entering Brazil was in fact coca. The Indians were trading the product to the Colombians for power saws. Last July a bimotored plane crashed at Moura, in the Amazon region, with 500 kilograms of cocaine on board; it was of Colombian registry. One week later \$74 million worth of refined cocaine was seized in Manaus; the gang in question included 43 Colombians. In this way it was discovered that Brazil--again through the instrumentality of the Colombians--had just become a part of the cocaine route to Europe (which consumes 14 percent of the production of the continent) and also a means of diverting attention from the routes that lead to the United States.

The direct route, in certain cases, was already all too well known: the DEA even knows that Braniff Flight 908, between Bogota and Miami, is the traffickers' favorite. One must therefore always be in search of new routes. A part of the Colombian cocaine now goes down the rivers of the Amazon region to the town of Leticia, on the Brazilian border.

"Green Sea"

The complexity of the traffic and the inventiveness of the traffickers (who previously used a former Peruvian president, Bustamante Rivero, to carry cocaine--unknowningly--to Los Angeles) have convinced the United States that one effective remedy is to attack the evil at its roots. In other words, the cocaine traffic must be combated in the very fields of the Latin American coca growers instead of attempting to seize the drug at its countless points of entry into the United States. This is the area in which the DEA operates, with its formidable mission of sponsoring efforts to dry up the sources of narcotics throughout the outside world. Some successes have been scored: it spent \$9 billion in Mexico to eliminate the plantings of the opium poppy (the basis of heroin) and marihuana, and accomplished its purpose. The marihuana emigrated to Colombia, however, and the heroin to Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan, where it was out of the reach of the DEA.

The results of the anticoca effort are questionable; the DEA appears to have wasted a great deal of time fighting the marihuana plague in Colombia. The only enduring

result of the effort was a disconcerting outburst of nationalism, embodied in the campaign by ANIF for the legalization of marihuana and in a document of the General Staff of the Colombian Army signed by Gen Joaquin Jose Matallana. Matallana--a military man who in the 1970's asked Washington's assistance to bomb his own country (he wanted to burn the marihuana-growing provinces with chemical defoliants)--is today convinced that the DEA "is unwarrantedly destroying" one of his country's natural resources.

Coca, too, is beginning to have its defenders--and one of them is the Peruvian Communist Party's Guzco section, which armed the local union of coca growers. This is why "Operation Green Sea"--in which the DEA paid 1,000 Peruvian agents to destroy the coca plantations of Tingo Maria, the major coca growing center in Peru--did not get to Guzco. "But the agents burned only the coca plantings that were located along the roads," declared Edwin Mesias, chief of the local FIP [Peruvian Investigative Police]. "The trade dried up somewhat, but everything is now returning to normal," Mayor Humberto Rojas said. "Now that they have closed the ENACO office here," he added, "the entire production (20,000 tons of leaf per year) is going to the 'wells.'"

Father Boaventura, a Franciscan monk from Canada who has been in Peru for 33 years, declared: "I know when a farmer is selling coca to the trade: he'll come here barefoot and ask me to bless his automobile. They live in shacks and buy cars that cost 4 million soles" (almost 1 million cruzeiros). Tingo Maria, with a population of 50,000, is perhaps the most classic example of a coca growing center in Latin America. It has only one paved street but is the second largest purchaser of Toyota automobiles in all of Peru. The city has no sewers but has six banks. It receives no TV images but possesses--according to the mayor--"at least 10 color video cassette sets in the homes of the millionaires."

Who are the wealthy of Tingo Maria? They all earn their livelihood from coca. There is Tito Jaime, chairman of the Regional Coca Growers Committee, who threatens to ask for compensation from the government for damage done by "Operation Green Sea." And there is Lucho Prato, who has 70 hectares planted to coca; lives in a big corrugated iron house that is without interior walls or ceilings; has an automobile with a Miami license plate; and 5 years ago lost a brother, who was murdered by traffickers in Colombia. There is the Esquivel family, who last year declared a total of 17 million cruzeiros in sales to ENACO alone. All these individuals are on the list of Gen Rolando Llanos--general coordinator of the campaign against the traffic in Peru--where they are described as the "major traffickers in the country."

In Tingo Maria, the list made by Llanos in Lima was shown to Lt Mario Jaramillas, a remote subordinate of Llanos. "It's all a lie," Jaramillas protested. Mesias also contradicted the list. "Lucho Prato is indeed a tycoon," he said, "but his 70 hectares of land planted to coca bring in 150 million soles (35 million cruzeiros) in legal sales." If these are not the traffickers (not to mention the 15,000 small growers whose coca the committee is continuing to buy openly, even though ENACO has closed its doors in the city), then who is carrying on the traffic that has enriched Tingo Maria, a settlement on the border of Peru's Amazon region that was founded by Lucho Prato's father 40 years ago? To quote Agent Mesias' response: "It is easier here to say who doesn't have anything to do with the traffic than to say who does."

1. The Coca Leaf

All of the world's cocaine comes from the coca plantations of Latin America. In the last 10 years the plant has spread throughout the continent, despite an official policy of eradication sponsored by the United States. There are 1,000 square kilometers of overt plantations in Peru and Bolivia, and the clandestine growing of coca has invaded Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela and Brazil. Coca--a shrub smaller than the coffee plant, immune to disease, and a native of arid lands--is capable of producing as many as five crops per year for a period of 30 years. For this reason it yields to the grower three times as much profit as coffee and four times as much as cacao--even when sold legally, at 400 cruzeiros per kilogram, to Coca-Cola or to the pharmaceutical industry.

2. The Basic Paste

The narcotics trafficker pays for each kilogram of coca leaf at least double (800 cruzeiros) the official price. He buys--directly from the grower--two-thirds of the production of Peru and Bolivia. In the very region where it is grown, the leaf is converted into a concentrate--coca paste--which process reduces its weight to one-fiftieth of the weight of the leaf and thereby facilitates its clandestine transport. The process is rudimentary: the farmer, or a middleman, digs a hole in the level ground, waterproofs it with plastic, and in it dissolves the leaves in kerosene and sulfuric acid. One kilogram of paste costs in Peru the equivalent of 70,000 cruzeiros. In Colombia, where the cocaine is refined, it can be worth seven or 10 times more than that.

3. The Cocaine

Although Colombia is a small-scale producer of coca, it manufactures (using the contraband paste from Peru and Bolivia) more than 40 percent of the illegally marketed cocaine in the world. Peru--the largest grower of coca leaf--supplies the traffic with another 25 percent of its cocaine, and Bolivia slightly more than 12 percent. The Colombian cocaine (a salt refined by clandestine laboratories in Bogota, Medellin and other major Colombian cities) is worth approximately 1.5 million cruzeiros per kilogram. The greater part of this cocaine is destined for the United States, where 70 percent of the cocaine enters the country through Colombia. In the past 12 months more than 5 tons of pure cocaine--worth 7.5 billion cruzeiros--was seized in Colombia.

4. The Traffic

Bogota is 2 hours by jet from Miami, but on the flight between Colombia and the Florida coast the price of the cocaine increases tenfold. In the hands of the wholesalers of the American narcotics traffic 1 kilogram of cocaine is worth the equivalent of 14 million cruzeiros. The transportation of cocaine is so lucrative that it defrays fabulous expenses (such as the purchase of cargo planes by the traffickers) and has given rise to an outbreak of piracy in the Caribbean: the smugglers are stealing yachts and fishing boats to transport marihuana and cocaine to Florida, and subsequently cast the vessels adrift.

5. The Mafia in the USA

In the American market the distribution of cocaine to the consumer is controlled by the Mafia, whose network performs miracles with the cocaine brought in from Colombia in its pure form. The cocaine is mixed with bicarbonate of soda, starch and boric acid (all of which look like cocaine) and appears on the streets with its purity reduced to 10 percent. For his "cocktail" of white powders the addict pays approximately \$80, or 4,600 cruzeiros. This means that from the moment the cocaine leaves Colombia its price increases almost 500 times--sufficient to defray all the expenses of the traffic, including the bribery of customshouses and losses incurred in transporting the drug: last year the smuggling operation abandoned a total of 300 planes on clandestine airports in Colombia.

PHOTO AND ILLUSTRATION CAPTIONS

1. p. 64. (Upper left) [in Spanish] Don't let yourself be exploited by the traffickers. Denounce them to the authorities! Don't let the traffickers get rich from your effort. Turn them down. Find a substitute for coca!

Using propaganda posters, the Peruvian Government is attempting to transfer to other countries the title of world champion in the production of coca leaves.

2. p. 64. (Upper right) All of the cocaine distributed to millions of consumers throughout the world comes from coca leaves, which thrive only on Latin American soil.

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CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

DIPLOMAT IMPLICATED IN COCAINE LABORATORY AFFAIR

Laboratory Explodes in Cajica

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 8 Sep 80 p 16-D

[Text] The involvement of a Venezuelan diplomat with a cocaine laboratory that exploded in the central part of Cajica last Saturday, yesterday shocked the foreign delegations accredited to Bogota. The official is being anxiously sought by the Colombian authorities.

The diplomat, Jesus Carreno Florez, assigned as air attache at the Venezuelan Embassy, was in the laboratory at the time that the explosion took place, but apparently he left the scene unhurt and fled hastily with two other drug dealers identified as Jaime Isaza Latorre and Jairo Devia.

It was possible to establish the identities of the three subjects because, in their haste to flee the scene, they left their documents behind.

The 60 kg of drug paste found were valued at 100 million pesos.

A Military Man

The participation of Carreno Florez, a Venezuelan official whose military rank is unknown, sets a precedent because this is the first time that a diplomat has been linked to drug trafficking.

The Venezuelan Embassy has remained completely silent, but it was learned through high-level sources that there was general dismay throughout diplomatic circles.

Nevertheless, after police sources had reported on the Venezuelan official's involvement with the laboratory discovered in Cajica yesterday afternoon, by nightfall the same sources were denying the presence of such an official among the fugitives.

Police officers of the F-2 component assigned to the Zipaquirá area detained three persons, including Bernardo Villarriaga Rodriguez, the landlord, in the residence where the laboratory was located, at the intersection of Third and Eighth Streets. The other two were Luz Mary Jimenez de Villarriaga, wife of the former, and Ligia Esperanza Villarriaga.

The authorities were able to detect the laboratory after the explosion took place.

Various types of acids, portions of alkaloid bases, seven decanters of acetone, eight buckets that contained almost 50 kg of cocaine paste, plastic syringes, scales and a fire extinguisher were found on the premises.

The laboratory was located in the back of the residence and was furnished with electric lamps installed to dry alkaloids.

According to the account given by the authorities, the house was occupied only when the gang of drug dealers needed to process cocaine.

Venezuelan Ambassador Denies Charges

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 9 Sep 80 p 2-A

[Text] Yesterday the Venezuelan Embassy categorically denied that there was any link between officials of that country and a cocaine laboratory that was discovered in Cajica last Saturday.

The first report was released by the Cundinamarca Police Department's press office on the basis of a Land Rover vehicle registration card found at the residence where the laboratory was located.

Inexplicably, the same police office that had released this information denied having made the report a few hours later.

A Venezuelan Embassy spokesman stated that from all indications the car had been the property of Jesus Carreno in 1976. The spokesman said the man is now in Venezuela, but had been assigned as air attache in Colombia until that year.

The same spokesman denied that there was any "direct or indirect" involvement of civilian or military diplomats with the laboratory which was discovered because of an explosion that took place there for reasons as yet unknown.

He asserted that the report created confusion to the detriment of diplomatic relations and especially of the duties performed by the air attache, Col Federico Navas Rodriguez.

The cocaine laboratory, where 60 kg of alkaloid base were found, and which was capable of producing 200 kg a day, operated within a residence in Cajica.

Curiously, an explosion took place at the residence, located at Third and Eighth Streets, and when F-2 police officers entered the premises they discovered a modern laboratory equipped with three drying ovens and a large array of drying lamps.

Fugitives

When the police officers arrived at the site they found only two women, Luz Mary Jimenez de Villarriaga and Luz Esperanza Villarriaga, wife and daughter, respectively, of the landlord, Bernardo Villarriaga Rodriguez, who was captured.

Three other persons who had been in the laboratory fled hurriedly, but they left their personal documents behind, which are in the possession of the authorities who are investigating the matter.

The fugitives, allegedly including Jesus Carreno Florez, who reportedly formerly worked at the Venezuelan Embassy, as well as Jaime Eduardo Isaza Latorre and Jairo Devia, are the object of a painstaking search by the security forces and it is expected that they may be caught at any time because their identities, professions and residential addresses have been definitely established.

9661

CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

AIR FORCE REACTS TO NCO'S ARREST

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 17 Sep 80 p 12-A

[Text] The Colombian Air Force (FAC) confirmed yesterday the arrest of one of its noncommissioned officers at the Fort Lauderdale, Florida, airport in the United States with 5.4 kg of cocaine.

It was reported in an international cable that Sergeant Walter Hincapie, the crew-member of an FAC plane, had been apprehended as he was transporting the cocaine in small packages which were in the plane's cabin, and that six other Colombians had been arrested along with him.

However, the FAC stated in a communique that only the noncommissioned officer had been arrested and that the other members of the crew were returning on the Hercules C-130 plane, which had flown to Miami on 15 September.

Communique

The Air Force released the following communique on the subject: "The commander of the Air Force wishes to inform the public that on a routine flight of a Hercules C-130 of the Colombian Air Force on 15 September between Bogota and the airport of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, in the United States, noncommissioned officer Technician First Class Walter Hincapie Rojas was surprised by U.S. authorities in possession of an undetermined amount of drugs. He acknowledged responsibility for this and was therefore detained in the United States.

"The other crew members, as well as the plane, were left at liberty to return to Colombia today as provided in the flight orders.

"With regard to this incident, it is at this time appropriate to announce that this incident occurred in spite of the regulations established to prevent and avoid the traffic of drugs in military planes.

"As a consequence, noncommissioned officer Technician First Class Walter Hincapie Rojas was dismissed from active service immediately, without prejudice to the appropriate disciplinary or criminal action.

"Finally, this command reaffirms its determination to continue to apply the established policy for the prevention and repression of the drug traffic on military planes by immediately dismissing from the service and if necessary, taking appropriate penal action, against personnel who by this kind of illicit activity diminish the prestige and the good name of the Air Force.

"Gen Raul Alberto Paredes Diago, commander of the Air Force."

9204

CSO: 5300

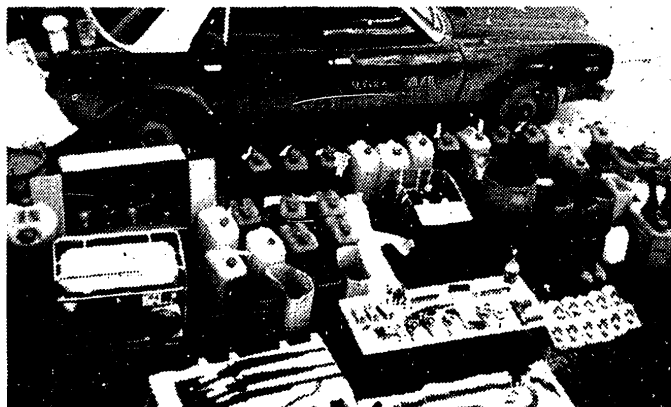
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COLOMBIA

MILITARY RAIDS COCAINE LAB

Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 18 Oct 80 p 21-A

[Photo caption]



A modern cocaine processing laboratory was dismantled at the "Los Cerezos" farm on the La Mesa trail by the "Sucre" Infantry Battalion No. 2, stationed at Chiquinquira.

CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

'KAWASAKIS' SEIZED IN BARRANQUILLA

Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 12 Sep 80 p 12-A

[Article by Luis Roncallo Fandino]

[Text] Barranquilla--The narcotics squad of the Judicial Police of the Attorney General's Office has captured two subjects and seized a valuable shipment of Dilaudid (K-4), commonly known as "Kawasakis."

Attorney Jesus Quintero Castilla, the chief of the Narcotics Department of the Regional Attorney's Office, supplied the information to EL ESPECTADOR and pointed out that "the tablets that were confiscated were stronger than those commonly known as 'jumbo' because they are made with the same substances as the latter, but a dose of morphine is added to them."

The Seizure

The drug dealer was arrested by secret agents of the Attorney General's Office on the grounds of the El Prado Hotel of this city, where they were able to seize 150,000 "Kawasaki" tablets, with a value of approximately 200 million pesos.

Samuel Ignacio Montes Munoz, who claims to be a lawyer and who, according to the source of the information, is known as "Dr Kawasaki," and his accomplice, Juan Manuel Naranjo Arbelaez, were arrested in the operation.

A 1975-model Nissan Patrol, which the two subjects used for transporting the drugs which they were about to sell, was confiscated.

The chief of narcotics of the Attorney General's Office announced that Montes Munoz and Naranjo Arbelaez, who are now in the local men's jail, will be turned over to the corresponding authorities.

9661
CSO: 5300

COLOMBIA

BRIEFS

COCAINE SEIZURE IN IPIALES--Pasto, 15 Sep--A ring of drug traffickers consisting of six Colombians and two Ecuadoreans fell into the hands of the authorities during a shootout in the town of Ipiates. The authorities seized 5 kg of cocaine, a Simca motor vehicle and a pistol with five cartridges and a clip. In addition, the drug traffickers [sic] destroyed a warehouse where the cocaine, which had been brought from Ecuador, was being stored. During the shootout one of the traffickers, Campo Elias Quiesmal, was wounded and was admitted to the San Vicente Hospital in Ipiates. The F-2 units were assisted by members of the Army who used tear gas. The drug traffickers have been identified as Jose Elias Patino Villareal, Hermes Pelayo y Onate, Alvaro Toguino Pasuy, Marco Antonio Burbano Obando, Segundo Lombardo Onate, Mariana Pantoja de Burbano, Socorro Patino Villarreal and Campo Elias Quiesmal. [By Edison Parra] [Text] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 16 Sep 80 p 3-A] 9204

HALLUCINOGENS SEIZED NEAR BARRANQUILLA--Half a million metaqualone tablets (a hallucinogenic drug better known as Lemon Jumbo 747) were confiscated yesterday by agents assigned to the F-2 of police headquarters after a careful investigation which was carried out over a period of several days in the environs of Barranquilla. The valuable shipment of the drug--which is considered to be the most desirable and coveted by U.S. and European addicts--was under the care of a woman identified as Amelia Hernandez de Baiter, of Barranquilla, who was carefully keeping the tablets in a cache in a building at 42-A-93 80th Street. Spokesmen for F-2 at police headquarters in Bogota pointed out that one tablet of the so-called "Jumbo 747" costs between \$5 and \$7 on the black market in the United States and in Europe. This means that the 500,000 tablets of metaqualone which were seized yesterday in Barranquilla, when placed in the hands of international traffickers, would be worth the fabulous sum of 125 million Colombian pesos. The seizure carried out by F-2 agents of the DIPEC (Investigation Division of the Judicial Police and Criminal Statistics) is one of the largest which have taken place recently, and by it the secret organization has achieved another victory against the organized rings of traffickers operating in Colombia on an international level. [Text] [Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 17 Sep 80 p 21-A] 9204

DRUG INVESTIGATIONS FAILURE RATE--Pereira--Because of the lack of technical equipment and effective means for carrying out the preliminary steps, 90 percent of the drug traffic investigations which have been carried out in Colombia have failed. This statement was made here by Gen Hernando Diaz Sanmiguel, commander of the 8th Brigade, during the opening of a national seminar on narcotics organized by local customs officials. On another subject, the high military officer admitted that the Colombian Revolutionary Armed Forces (FARC) have operated within the jurisdiction of the brigade (in Quindio) but he explained: "It is not that they are

specifically based in a certain area but they do operate in the area temporarily in their comings and goings to other departments such as Antioquia and Boyaca." [By Martin A. Parra] [Text] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 11 Sep 80 p 3-C] 9204

TRAFFICKERS, PLANE SEIZED--Villavicencio, 12 Sep--Three U.S. citizens and two Colombians fell into the hands of the F-2 as they were attempting to load a shipment of 2 tons of marihuana valued at 60 million pesos into a DC-7 plane of U.S. registry. The drug and the plane were seized after an F-2 operation carried out on a farm located in the jurisdiction of the municipality of Vistahermosa in southern Meta. The alleged traffickers offered the members of the secret organization 3 million pesos to set them free, an offer which was rejected. The persons apprehended were identified as U.S. citizens Cassian William Phippis, Brian Deer and Laurence Ravon Leed, and Colombians Alvaro Bueno and Antonio Bueno. [By Arnoldo Falla] [Text] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 13 Sep 80 p 2-B] 9204

COCAINE SEIZED AT AIRPORT--Another 5 pounds of high-quality cocaine were seized at El Dorado Airport in the course of an investigation by the Judicial Police of the Attorney General's Office. Edgar Virgilio Colmenares, who was carrying the drugs in a double-bottom suitcase, was arrested and charged. The seizure was made on Avianca flight 604, coming from Leticia, which landed in Bogota at 1800 hours. The cocaine that was confiscated has a value of more than 5 million pesos. [Text] [Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 12 Sep 80 p 9-A] 9661

CS0: 5300

MAURITANIA

BRIEFS

INTERNATIONAL DRUG TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED--The police headquarters of Nouadhibou proceeded last Tuesday to a raid that resulted in the seizure of 18 kilos of drugs and the arrest of a gang of international traffickers. This gang which is composed of two Frenchmen and two Malians came from Senegal by Rosso proceeding onto Nouakchott to finally arrive to Nouadhibou where it probably intended to sell its merchandise. This seizure of drugs which is the most important of its kind is part of a clean-up campaign undertaken by the police of Nouadhibou some time ago. The governor of Dakhlet-Nouadhibou used this occasion to congratulate the police officers who conducted this operation and exhorted them to be even more vigilant and efficient in the prevention of such activities. The Frenchmen, Patrice Cosin and Jerper Ouasis, are 20 and 21 respectively. As for the Malians they are both 28. [Text] [Nouakchott CHAAB in French 4-5 Oct 80 p 8] 9670

CSO: 5300

DENMARK

BRIEFS

SENTENCED FOR DRUG SMUGGLING--David Carlsen, 46, was yesterday sentenced to 6 years' imprisonment by the Copenhagen City Court in a major drug smuggling case. At the same time, 375,000 kroner were seized from him, which amount is his estimated profits from his trade in narcotics. He immediately appealed the case to the High Court. Michael Lyngbo, police court prosecutor, described Carlsen as a dangerous person in a case which he described as the ugliest form of drug trafficking, in which Carlsen exploited other people's difficulties. Many of the witnesses had refused to give evidence and were heard in camera. The counsel for the defense, Lisbeth Victor Hansen, attorney at law entitled to plead before the High Court, asked for the case to be dismissed, stating that there had been no evidence to prove the guilt of the defendant. The judge, Per Sørensen, stated that the court had attached importance to the evidence given by the witnesses, and that all of them had expressed fears of reprisals, and that all of them, moreover, had referred to Carlsen as the one who had supplied them with the drugs. Carlsen has previously received 32,000 kroner by way of compensation for unwarranted arrest and custody. That sentence was appealed to the High Court by the Prosecution. [Text] [Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 23 Oct 80 p 2] 7262

PRISON DRUG PROBLEM STUDIED--Minister of Justice Henning Rasmussen will now be delving deeply into the narcotics problems in Danish prisons. In a meeting with the judiciary committee of the Folketing, the minister promised that, at a very early date and prior to the questions in the Folketing in early November, he will have statistics prepared showing the number of drug addicts in custody in minimum and maximum security prisons. The information will enable the Folketing and the government to evaluate whether there is a need to separate drug addicts and drug dealers from prisoners not using drugs. There will, moreover, be a reduction of the number of prisoners in the prisons with the highest occupancy rates at Nyborg and Horsens. The minister of justice will, later on, be asking the finance committee of the Folketing for funds to improve the buildings of the two prisons. This request will be in excess of the approximately 30 million kroner which he has requested for an expansion of the cell capacity in order to overcome the imprisonment bulge. That request is still under consideration in the finance committee. It is against the background of a request from the Socialist People's Party and the Single-Tax Party that the Folketing, in a few weeks, will be discussing the conditions in Danish prisons. [Text] [Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 23 Oct 80 p 7]

HEROIN ADDICT ARRESTED--A 23-year-old man yesterday admitted before the judge on duty in the Copenhagen City Court that he had robbed the branch of the Danish Bank at 58, Nørrebrogade, Copenhagen of approximately 11,000 kroner, pretending that a bag containing coffee contained a bomb. He is a heroin addict and spends approximately 2,000 kroner a day on drugs. That is the reason why he committed the robbery, for which he was arrested immediately after the act. He was sentenced to 2 weeks' imprisonment. [Text] [Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 23 Oct 80 p 2] 7262

CSO: 5300

FINLAND

ANOTHER PHYSICIAN CHARGED IN FALSIFIED PRESCRIPTIONS CASE

Helsinki HELSINGIN SANOMAT in Finnish 23 Oct 80 p 10

[Article: "Ten Doctors Accused of Dolorex Misuse"]

[Text] The Dolorex court case, which is drawing to a close, indicted 10 physicians for criminal actions related to drug abuse. Municipal Public Prosecutor Ritva Santavuori announced that he is considering the indictment of still two more physicians. After that he is ready to conclude the case.

Helsinki Physician Aki Loikkanen was accused in the Helsinki Municipal Court of transferring 4,290 Dolorex tablets by means of falsified prescriptions to a drug dealer also accused in the case. The prosecutor considers this crime to be a gross violation of the law.

In the prosecutor's opinion Loikkanen knew that the drugs were intended for misuse as well as for illegal distribution. In the police inquiry Loikkanen stated that he prescribed his patient 100 Dolorex tablets so that he could redeem his pawned telephone shares.

However, in court Loikkanen revised his statement by explaining that the patient had already used the pills for redeeming his telephone shares and he only prescribed new pills to replace the ones already used.

In the opinion of the prosecutor Loikkanen knew at that time that the medicine prescribed by him would be misused. In Loikkanen's opinion the redemption of the telephone did not represent misuse.

Loikkanen explained that he attempted by all means to determine whether his patient, who had become a drug addict, obtained medication from other doctors. However, he was not able to obtain this information. Loikkanen disputed the accusation of intentional criminal action.

Reception Assistant Narcotics Policeman's Wife

Loikkanen stated that he became aware of his patient's false identity only after the druggist told him that the individual's name is not listed in the medical insurance registry. The relationship between Loikkanen and his patient was broken off at that time.

At the hearings Loikkanen's former reception assistant had a different interpretation of the situation. The reception assistant's husband, who works with the narcotics police, by chance happened to recognize the doctor's patient while visiting his wife at her place of employment and disclosed that this person is using a false name.

The reception assistant passed this information onto the doctor and said that she would refuse to participate in the writing of prescriptions for patients using an assumed name.

According to the testimony of this woman Loikkanen did not stop writing such prescriptions. Instead the patients on drugs began to come to the office after closing hours. The doctor even allowed his assistant to leave early so that he could receive his patients who were on drugs.

Loikkanen stated that he wrote prescriptions for Dolorex without any compensation "so that there would be no doubt about his motives". However, the reception assistant recalled that the patients left the doctor sums of money amounting to 50-100 markkas without a receipt.

Public Prosecutor Santavuori stated that he has assembled all his material for the case and at the next proceedings in a couple weeks he will ask for a decision. In addition to this main case, Dolorex-charges are being handled in other smaller cases.

10576
CSO: 5300

FINLAND

BRIEFS

HASHISH SMUGGLING CHARGED--In Helsinki Municipal Court four young men are being accused of smuggling and misusing drugs. It is believed that the men smuggled more than 3 kilos of hashish as well as amphetamines and LSD into Finland. According to the prosecutor a sailor being accused of smuggling the largest amount of drugs brought 1.5 kilos of hashish from Spain during the months of May and June. It is suspected that he sold nearly a kilo out of this amount for approximately 20,000 markkas. At the end of September he attempted to bring 360 grams of hashish purchased in India through Helsinki's Vantaa Airport. However, the man was detained and the drugs were confiscated. A Helsinki bus driver is being accused of smuggling in 1,150 grams of hashish last spring. According to the accusation he sold approximately half of this amount. Two other young Helsinki residents are being accused of purchasing several hundred grams of hashish as well as of reselling it. They are also being accused of smuggling in 50 grams of amphetamines and 23 LSD tablets from Sweden. The accused pleaded guilty to the accusations. Their cases will begin on 10 November. [Text] [Helsinki HELSINGIN SANOMAT in Finnish 23 Oct 80 p 7] 10576

CSO: 5300

TURKEY

BRIEFS

ERBAKAN DRUG SUIT PLANNED--The investigation file prepared on the charge that NSP leader Necmettin Erbakan and NSP member Fehim Adak smuggled heroin has been returned to the Ankara Prosecutor's Office by the Martial Law Command Military Prosecutor's Office. As you know, the investigation file on heroin smuggling was sent some time ago to the Military Prosecutor's Office by the Ankara Prosecutor's Office in order to be combined with investigations conducted by the Military Prosecutor's Office concerning the two former deputies. In light of this, the Ankara Prosecutor's Office investigation of Erbakan and Adak for heroin smuggling will continue and that office will file a suit. [Text] [Istanbul MILLIYET in Turkish 31 Oct 80 p 10]

HEROIN SEIZURE--Mardin, 13 Nov (AA)--Eight and a half kilograms of heroin was seized by security forces in a village on the Diyarbakir-Mardin road, martial law authorities for the area said. The heroin, estimated to have an illicit market value running into several hundred million liras, was to be used in the smuggling of arms into Turkey, officials said. The link between drug smugglers and terrorist gangs in the area was established over 4 years ago, it was revealed. A Diyarbakir businessman was taken under custody in connection with the load of heroin after 3 months of investigation by a policeman posing as a prospective buyer. A spokesman for martial law said other persons were being sought, including the gang leader. [Text] [TA131133 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1050 GMT 13 Nov 80]

CSO: 5300

UNITED KINGDOM

DIPLOMATIC BAG USED TO SMUGGLE CANNABIS

London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 16 Oct 80 p 3

[Text]

A FORMER Moroccan Embassy employee used a diplomatic "bag" when he tried to smuggle one-third of a ton of cannabis—worth £635,140 at street prices—into Britain, a court was told yesterday.

The haul would not have been discovered but for an accident when the "bag" — a large crate — fell from a forklift truck as it was being moved, said Mr RICHARD SUTTON, prosecuting, at Ipswich Crown Court.

Inside the crate were 15 holdalls and two suitcases containing Pakistani black cannabis which is in short supply because of the Afghan situation.

MUEEN UDDIN CHISHTI, 47, who was personal secretary to the Moroccan Ambassador in Islamabad, admitted illegally attempting to import the drug and was jailed for nine years. He had been instantly dismissed from his Pakistan job when arrested.

Mr Sutton said the cannabis was found in June on its way through customs at Parkston Quay, Harwich. Containers classed as diplomatic bags go through customs without inspection.

Promised £21,000

Chishti, a Pakistani, who lives with his wife and five children in Islamabad, was arrested on a visit to his cousin's home at Tooting, said Mr Sutton.

In a statement to police Chishti eventually admitted trying to smuggle the drug. He said he was promised about 500,000 rupees (£21,200) for his part in the crime.

He loaded the cannabis into crates with some personal belongings that were being consigned to the Moroccan Embassy in London. And he claimed that a man named Khan was the organiser in Pakistan of drug smuggling by diplomatic channels on a large scale.

He said he met Khan through embassy parties in Pakistan, and that Khan told him he smuggled drugs through the Indonesian, Ghanaian, Filipino and Thai embassies.

Later Khan threatened him and his family with violence if he did not go through with the drugs deal.

Mr ROLAND GARRICK, a customs officer, told the court that this was probably the largest consignment of drugs that had been smuggled using diplomatic baggage.

CSO: 5320

UNITED KINGDOM

NINE JAILED IN CANNABIS SMUGGLING OPERATION

London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 23 Oct 80 p 17

[Text]

NINE men were jailed for a total of 22 years and several heavily fined yesterday for their part in a drug smuggling operation aimed at putting 1½ tons of cannabis on Britain's streets.

But Mold Crown Court in North Wales was told the gang of "gentlemen smugglers" had already brought in drugs worth more than £6 million.

The ringleaders, ROBIN THOMPSON, 33, CHARLES RADCLIFFE, 33, and VICTOR GRASSI, 35, were each jailed for five years.

Radcliffe, 33, an antique dealer, of Twyford, Shaftesbury, Dorset, who was the gang's paymaster, was also fined £37,000, while Grassi, the drugs distributor, of Marcia Avenue, Harrow, was fined £20,000.

The court was told the gang's luck ran out after a Dutchman behind the smuggling swindled them and they decided to go it alone.

However, Customs investigators mounted a huge undercover operation and were waiting when Thompson, of Dallington, East Sussex, brought the yacht *Elouise* into a deserted beach on Anglesey in North Wales last April.

Almost 1½ tons of Moroccan cannabis worth £1,500,000 were seized the following night when customs men swooped on the yacht's crew and the beach party waiting to offload the drugs.

The nine men appearing in Mold Crown Court all pleaded guilty to charges of illegally importing cannabis.

ALLAN STEPHEN LLOYD, 35, of Llangristiolus, Anglesey, was jailed for two years.

ROBERT GEORGE SCOTT CAMPION, 39, also a professional yachtsman, of The Avenue, Fobbing, Essex; ALAN ROBERT JONES, 31, seaman, of Richmond Hill, Truro, Cornwall, and COLIN JOHN COOMBER, 27, carpenter, of Grover Road, Oxhey, Watford, Herts, were each jailed for 18 months. Jones was fined £5,000, Campion and Coomber £1,000 each.

DAVID OREN, 29, of High Street, South Norwood, was jailed for 12 months and fined £1,000. MICHAEL JOHN SHANNAHAN, 25, of Silchester Road, North Kensington, was freed after spending six months in custody awaiting trial.

Plenty of money

The gang was cracked by a Customs operation codenamed "Yashmak" after Customs

agents heard talk about the life-style of Thompson, skipper of the yacht *Elouise*. He had plenty of money but no obvious occupation.

He was "tailed" from soon after last Christmas. Gradually a picture emerged of the gang. Radcliffe and Grassi financed the final trip that led to the arrests. They put up £75,000 to buy cannabis in Morocco and agreed to pay the expenses of the *Elouise* and its crew.

The landing place was fixed as a beach at Newborough Warren, Anglesey. A holiday cottage was rented for the shore party, awaiting delivery of the drugs.

The coastguard cutter *Swift*, which had shadowed the yacht from near Land's End, blocked one end of the Straits, while another sealed off the other.

Unaware of the watch, Thompson and his crew—Campion and Jones—ferried the cannabis ashore in a rubber dinghy and hid it in woods near the beach.

The next night the ferrying was resumed. When, at midnight, the last packet was ashore, the Customs men swooped. Within seconds four of the gang had been tackled and lay winded on the sand.

"They were gentlemen smugglers and there was no violence," one of the Customs officers said.

CSO: 5320

UNITED KINGDOM

BRIEFS

YARD DETECTIVES INVESTIGATED--New information linking senior Scotland Yard detectives with an inquiry into the "re-cycling" of drugs seized by police is being investigated by Scotland Yard's Complaints Investigation Bureau. The information has been received since the conviction in July of a former Drugs Squad officer, Det Sgt Kevin Carrington, 31. He was jailed for seven years for his part in a racket which resulted in seized drugs being re-sold to drug pushers. During Carrington's trial, Mr Kenneth Machin, QC, defending, said other officers "much more senior" were involved, but had "covered their tracks successfully so far." Detectives investigating the new information have visited men serving prison sentences. There have been discussions with Sir Thomas Hetherington, Director of Public Prosecutions, and a report on the results of the inquiries is being prepared. Several former Drugs Squad officers have been questioned during the present inquiry. Three officers are under suspension and three others have been dismissed or resigned since the inquiry started. The "Scotland Yard connection" in the drugs racket came to light after Essex police seized cannabis during a raid. The drug was sent for routine scientific examination and traces of materials of a type used by Scotland Yard scientists was found in the drug. This suggested it had been in the hands of police before the Essex detectives seized it and an inquiry was started. [T. A. Sandrock] [Text] [London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 24 Oct 80 p 3]

COCAINE SEIZED--Customs investigators at Heathrow yesterday seized eight kilograms of cocaine valued at more than 1 million pounds and said they had "smashed a major smuggling operation." Four men were later being questioned. [Text] [London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 25 Oct 80 p 1]

CANNABIS SEIZED ON SHIP--Cannabis valued at more than 300,000 pounds was seized by customs officers in a raid on a ship in Liverpool yesterday. The seizure takes the drug haul at the port to more than 1 million pounds sterling in three weeks. The drugs were discovered aboard the Cleuda-de-Medellim when it berthed from Columbia. A Customs and Excise spokesman said that the drugs were bound for the Continent. [Text] [London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 1 Nov 80 p 1]

HEROIN LABORATORY--Detectives discovered a heroin-producing laboratory in raids early yesterday in north London. The raids were the outcome of a five-week investigation, led by Det. Chief Supt John Hoddinott, head of the Scotland Yard Drugs Squad. Drugs worth about 250,000 pounds were seized. Undercover detectives had learned that heroin supplies were coming from a north London supplier and special operations were mounted to watch for couriers and distributors. During the raids in Hackney, Highbury, Holloway, Hendon and Hertfordshire, a woman and 11 men were detained. Later, a woman and five men were charged with drugs offences and are due to appear at Highbury Corner magistrates' court today. Others were still being questioned last night. [T. A. Sandrock] [Text] [London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 4 Oct 80 p 1]

DRUGS SEIZED--Cannabis worth more than 500,000 pounds has been seized in a raid on a ship from Jamaica by Customs men at Liverpool. It brings the total found in the past week at the port to 700,000 pounds sterling. Customs men are also questioning the crew of a Pakistani vessel after they discovered 200,000 pounds worth of the drug in a routine check. [Text] [London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 10 Oct 80 p 1]

CANNABIS HAUL--Cannabis resin and cannabis oil with a street value of about 400,000 pounds were seized yesterday by Customs investigators in a joint operation with Scotland Yard's Drug Squad. The drugs were found aboard a ship from Holland which arrived at Ipswich late on Tuesday night. The seizure was part of an extensive inquiry into an international drug ring which has been operating in Europe and America. [Text] [London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 16 Oct 80 p 1]

CSO: 5320

END